



**EAT OUT FOR £5**  
**400 top restaurants**  
 Affordable meals with a restaurant to suit every taste. Details and voucher  
**PAGE 11**



**Back in The Changing Room**  
 Valerie Grove on a revived David Storey  
**PAGE 15**



**Babies for sale**  
 Scandal of the East-West trade in children  
**PAGE 14**



**On the tee**  
 Guide to the 1996 Corporate Golf Challenge

## Party leaders join forces as they go to the country again

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
 COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

IN A rare show of unity, the leaders of the three main political parties have written a joint letter to *The Times* to express their support for the protection of the countryside.

John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown, deliberately echo the language of a similar, though perhaps even more remarkable letter published in *The Times* on May 8, 1929, and signed by Stanley Baldwin, then Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald and Lloyd George.

Mr Major and his political foes agreed to set aside their differences at the request of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), which inspired the earlier letter. They write: "During the

next few months we shall differ on so many problems of public importance that we gladly take the opportunity of showing that on one subject we speak with a united voice — namely, in advocating the protection of our countryside in its rich personality and character."

Fiona Reynolds, director of the CPRE, said: "We asked the three leaders if they would write a letter in the same spirit as that of 1929 to mark our seventeenth anniversary, which we are celebrating this year. We are delighted they agreed to do so."

The man credited with the 1929 coup is Sir Patrick Abercrombie, a pioneering town and country planner who three years earlier had played a leading role in founding the CPRE along with Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, the architect of the Italian-



Baldwin persuaded Lloyd George and Ramsay MacDonald to sign a similar letter

ate fantasy of Portmeirion in North Wales.

Ms Reynolds said: "It all seems to have been arranged through gentlemanly contacts behind the scenes. Baldwin, a keen

country lover, is thought to have persuaded the other two leaders to sign." One of the few written references to the letter is in the minutes of an executive committee meeting held on April 24, 1929, which

notes that an appeal for funds supported by a leading article had appeared in *The Times* that morning.

Sadie Ward, the archivist, said: "The secretary of the meeting then read out a letter which it was hoped would be signed by Baldwin and the other two leaders in support of the appeal. This appeared in *The Times* on May 8. We know that Abercrombie had been trying to get such a letter published for some time.

The only other known time that the leaders of the three parties have sent a letter to the Editor was on July 6, 1981, when Margaret Thatcher, Michael Foot and David Steel appealed for funds for a memorial to Lord Mountbatten, but on that occasion they were joined by five other signatories.

The CPRE was launched at a time of

growing concern about the impact on the countryside of rapid urbanisation, fuelled by rising mobility and demand for better housing. Extensions to the Underground were making it easier for people to commute to work and the disfiguring sprawl of "ribbon development" went largely unchecked.

One of the CPRE's first successes was a campaign that forced Shell and other petroleum companies to take down unsightly roadside advertising. It also backed calls for a "green belt" (originally "girdle") round London, which was introduced in 1946.

Baldwin, who spent his boyhood in the Bewdley region of Worcestershire,

Continued on page 2, col 5

Letters, page 17

## Public sector pay squeeze hits nurses

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Government angered public-sector workers yesterday by restricting nurses to a national pay rise of 2 per cent and cutting back awards to a million others, including teachers and doctors.

Britain's 480,000 nurses were told they would have to rely on local bargaining to secure more than 2 per cent, an offer dismissed by nurses' leaders as "derisory".

The Government added to their anger by declining to follow last year's practice of setting a target that nurses should be able to win from hospitals.

While ministers claimed that the absence of a ceiling on local deals could mean that nurses in some areas would win much more than 2 per cent, nurses' leaders denounced the "squeeze" as another attempt by the Government to foist local bargaining on them.

The dispute with the nurses and allied groups such as midwives and health visitors overshadowed the announcement of more generous rises, recommended by the independent pay review bodies, for doctors, teachers, dentists, members of the armed forces, judges, senior military and top civil servants.

The Cabinet was forced to make staged awards to these groups to protect its counter-inflationary policy, to keep borrowing under control, and to check the risk of a pay explosion among other public-

sector workers. The move, which saved £150 million, has alienated groups representing a million professionals in a pre-election year. Without staging the pay bill would have risen by £884 million or 4 per cent. The average initial pay increase will now be 3 per cent, while the inflation rate is 3.2 per cent.

Teachers will receive 3.75 per cent, with 2.75 per cent in April and the rest in December. Doctors will get an average of 3.8 per cent, with dentists on 4.3 per cent. There will be special rises for junior medical staff: registrars will receive 5.3 per cent and house officers will be given 6.8 per cent. In all cases, 1 percentage point of the rise will be delayed until December.

Judges will be given staged

rises of 3.9 per cent and senior military officers will receive an average increase of 4.6 per cent. Under a new performance-related pay structure, top civil servants could get up to 11 per cent, but poor performers might get nothing at all. Last year, the Government paid awards ranging from 1.5 per cent to 3.2 per cent.

The Royal College of Nursing called the 2 per cent award "utterly out of touch at a time of growing nursing shortages and rock bottom morale". It added: "Nurses will expect equality with junior doctors. They are worth 6.8 per cent too."

Andrew Smith, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, accused the Government of double standards. Cedric Brown, the chief executive of British Gas, could retire with £250,000 a year, while a staff nurse had been promised an increase of only £5 a week.

"The staging of the teachers' and other awards is a deception and an admission of economic failure by the Government, who are saying that they are doing so badly on the economy that they cannot afford to pay at once increases which they accept are justified," he said.

Ministers judged that the recommended pay rises could not be afforded within the spending increases announced for Whitehall departments last November. Fears



See you on Monday



Talks ahead: nurses will have to rely on local bargaining to top up their award

that some of the extra £880 million Budget allocation for schools might have to be siphoned off for teachers' pay awards is also believed to have influenced the Government's strategy. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, ruled out raising the £3 billion reserve to fund the extra £150 million needed to pay the rises in full immediately.

Senior Treasury officials insisted that the decision would not affect the Chancellor's growth forecast for this year of 3 per cent.

Conservative MPs are concerned, however, that meddling with the review body awards could delay the reappearance of the "feel-good factor" and undermine the party's political recovery.

Many Tories saw the decision as a victory for Mr Clarke and senior Treasury officials. It was also seen as a strong signal that the Government intends to delay a general election until next spring to allow time for a fresh round of Budget tax cuts and another more generous pay round.

Pay deals, page 8

## Myra Hindley may move to open prison

By RICHARD FORD  
 HOME CORRESPONDENT

MYRA HINDLEY, the moors murderer jailed for life in 1966, should be considered for transfer to an open prison, the Parole Board has recommended.

The suggestion, which will spark a storm of controversy, was made following a review of her case last month. Michael Howard is now considering the recommendation, which he is under no obligation to accept.

But the Home Secretary faces a dilemma because a rejection could prompt a court challenge by lawyers acting for Hindley. Yet moving her to an open jail would trigger a public outcry.

It is understood that the panel of up to four members — including a psychiatrist — which considered Hindley's case did not suggest how long she should remain in prison.

Hindley, 54, who was jailed for the murder of four children, is being held at Durham. Her lover, Ian Brady, also jailed for life, does not wish to be considered for parole.

The Prison Service has three



Hindley: a move could trigger public outcry

open jails for women — Askham Grange, near York, Drake Hall in Ecclestone, Staffordshire and East Sutton Park near Maidstone in Kent. Inmates are allowed great freedom to move around, sometimes outside the prison, without being guarded. None of the female open jails has a secure perimeter fence.

Mr Howard is also studying representations from Hindley's lawyers over a decision by Lord Waddington, when Home Secretary in 1990, that Hindley remain in prison for the rest of her life.

## Prescription charge is increased by 25p

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PRESCRIPTION charges are to rise by 25p to £5.50p from April, an increase of nearly 5 per cent, the Government announced last night. Labour immediately accused ministers of sneaking through the increase in a parliamentary written answer and ducking

out of a Commons statement. Gerald Malone, the Health Minister also announced that the maximum charge for dental treatment is to rise from £300 to £325, but the value of optical vouchers, given to children and those on income support, would go up by only one per cent. Mr Malone insisted that Britain's exemption arrangements were still among the most generous in Europe.

Fees for prescription prepayment certificates will rise by £1.50 from £27.20 to £28.50 for a four month certificate and by £3.60 to £78.40 for an annual ticket. Mr Malone said that about 85 per cent of prescriptions dispensed in 1986-87 would be free.

### SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Money made easy  
 Free 24-page guide to Peps

PLUS  
 The Magazine, Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers, Weekend Money and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

THE 8-SECTION TIMES IS 40p TOMORROW

## Tory drops in to win nomination

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

YOUNG Tory bloods will stop at nothing to win themselves the chance of a seat in the Commons. But few spend £1,000 to hire a helicopter to beat the driving snow and appear before two party selection meetings in different parts of the country during the same evening.

John Berrow, special adviser to Virginia Bottomley, did exactly that on Wednesday night when he was invited to the final selection meetings for two seats with majorities of more than 20,000.

Mr Berrow, 33, was invited to compete with five other candidates for Surrey Heath, a new seat created by boundary changes with a national majority of 22,754, and Buckingham, with a national majority of 20,644 where the list had been whittled down to three.

Mr Berrow and an old political friend, Julian Lewis, organised the trip between Surrey and Buckingham. First, they arranged with both party agents for him to appear first in Surrey and last in Buckingham, to allow enough time for the trip.

After being interviewed by Tory officials at the Lakeside Country Club at Frimley Green near Camberley, Surrey, Mr Berrow driven into a waiting chauffeur-diver car at 7.35pm, arriving at the Blackbushe airport at 7.50pm.

Mr Berrow, his girlfriend Louise Cumber, and Mr Lewis rushed out to the waiting Twin Squirrel helicopter where pilots Leon Smith and Bob Thompson, were preparing for the 35-minute flight. The three passengers crammed into the back of the five-

## Collins and the missing million

Joan Collins took a verbal mauling in the witness stand in New York yesterday in a \$4 million breach of contract case with her former publisher. Earlier, she confessed that she had spent the \$1.2 million advance at the root of the dispute. "A million dollars sounds a lot, but it actually isn't," she said. Page 3

## Media merger

A giant new media group was announced yesterday under a £3 billion marriage of the Express newspaper group with television station owner MAI. The new company will be run by Lord Hollick, MAI managing director. Pages 6, 21

## Accountancy exam

Results of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales' December final examination will be published tomorrow. Copies will be available from London mainline stations from 10pm.



Buying The Times overseas  
 Australia \$9.40, Belgium £5.80, Canada \$9.25, Channel Isles £5.80, Cyprus £11.25, Denmark Dkr 18.00, Finland Fmk 17.00, France F 14.00, Germany DM 4.50, Gibraltar £2.00, Greece Dr 300, Netherlands Fl 4.50, Ireland £4.50, Italy L 4.50, Luxembourg Lf 4.50, Macedonia MK 350, Malta M 4.50, Monaco M 4.50, Norway Kr 20.00, Portugal Esc 350, Spain Ps 225, Sweden Skr 19.50, Switzerland Frs 4.00, Tunisia Din 2.200, USA \$3.50

TV & RADIO	38-39
WEATHER	20
CROSSWORDS	20, 40

LETTERS	17
OBITUARIES	19
BERNARD LEVIN	16

ARTS	29-31
CHESS & BRIDGE	35
COURT & SOCIAL	18

SPORT	35-38, 40
EDUCATION	33
LAW REPORT	28

The Times on the Internet  
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

# To be a marginal Tory is the short straw in the lottery of life

o be born British, announced Peter Butler (C, Milton Keynes NE) to a packed House, "is to win the lottery of life". The Prime Minister agreed.

Mr Butler, who said he was quoting Lord Palmerston, was received with cheers if not an inopportune rendering of *Land of Hope and Glory*. But his claim raises difficulties. First, it was not Lord Palmerston who coined the assertion, but Cecil John Rhodes. Second, Rhodes said "English", not "British". Third, it was not a

one-prize lottery to which Rhodes was referring. This is what Rhodes said: "Remember that you are an Englishman, and have consequently won first prize in the lottery of life."

Mere quibbles, of course. When (as in Butler's case) you are Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, you have better things to do than distinguish between one of our greatest Foreign Secretaries and a rascally commercial adventurer. English? British? From the

perspective of Milton Keynes, who cares? It must seem almost the same. And in Milton Keynes the pressure on librarians will be very great there may have been no time for Mr Butler to check his references.

But the error we must correct is the idea that there is only one prize in the lottery of life. What about a second prize? This, surely, must be to be elected Conservative Member of Parliament for Milton Keynes NW. The numbers securing this prize are 01 41 76

— the Tory majority. Adjacent to Milton Keynes NW lies Milton Keynes SW. This constituency is third prize in the lottery of life, and was won in 1992 by Barry Legg (C); winning numbers 00 46 87.

There are also much smaller prizes, one of which is not even in England, but Wales, where Walter Sweeney (C) won the Vale of Glamorgan; winning numbers 00 00 19.

However, the chap whose fate it was to field questions at the dispatch box yesterday was the winner of the biggest booby prize in the lottery of life. To inherit the Tory leadership after Margaret Thatcher is like thinking you've won a double-roller, then finding

you've only won £1, and spending it on a duff scratchcard.

Given those circumstances, John Major put up a pretty spirited performance yesterday afternoon. Tony Blair, thin-lipped with frustration, clawed the air for a few minutes on the subject of why key ministers (but nobody else) are receiving the Scott report six days before others. He clawed in vain: the Tories, baying to order, seem to have remembered that the party that bays together, stays together.

First, however, to question the Prime Minister, was Graham Riddick (C, Colne Valley). Mr Riddick dipped last year into the fabled life (when *Sunday Times* reported posing as businessmen offered him £1,000 to ask a question) and came up with only saved: Then he was censured by the "privileges" committee.

Mr Riddick, he bats on, but must be judged unfortunate, so far in latey lottery: two blank scratchcards and his bonus ball most definitely missing. Yesterday he wanted to

place himself "four square behind the Union", criticising Tony Blair's constitutional plans. These came, he said, from a "middle-class public school boy": Sir Malcolm Thomson (C, Crosby), quoting a socialist document, said public schools "produce social elites".

Of course Mr Major (as he reminded us) went to a grammar school. Nobody asked him whether, in his day, the senior boys received their examination papers six days early.



MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

## Social security cut will cost 20,000 jobs, say unions

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, JILL SHERMAN AND JEREMY LAURANCE

A POLITICAL storm blew up last night over the Government's plans to cut social security running costs by 25 per cent, with predictions that up to 20,000 jobs lost.

Labour claimed the planned £1 billion cutbacks would push the benefits system past breaking point and encourage fraud. Unions and charities insisted the cuts in the £4.5 billion administrative budget would hit genuine claimants and said they could provoke industrial action.

Barry Reansbottom, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, said it was impossible to reduce spending so swiftly without ending the Social Security Department's policy



John Berrow relaxes yesterday after bagging the nomination in Buckingham

### Tory flight

Continued from page 1

seater, donned ear muffs against the noise and wore off.

Meanwhile a friend, Nina Karsov, had driven up to Buckingham from London. Two cars — with their indicator lights flashing and their headlights on — marked out the area at Fimmere where the helicopter landed with a bump at 8.25pm.

Mr Berrow and his friends rushed into the waiting car

### got a big ambition

got a big ambition," he told them. Mr Berrow was selected, defeating Howard Flight and David Rutley.

Mr Berrow said last night: "To arrive at a Tory selection meeting by helicopter is a little unconventional but it certainly got my blood up. When an obstacle is put in your way, you need some resourcefulness to overcome it. It cost me a pretty penny but it was extremely well spent."

## Desperate strokes against rising tide

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY's three-pronged attack on the social security budget, which consumes a third of state spending, involves a drive to reduce benefit payments, stop fraud and cut bureaucracy. The central prong of this strategy has run into an immovable object: the steadily rising number of claimants.

Since 1979, claimants for the 26 benefits available on the welfare state have doubled. One in six of the working population are dependent on state benefits compared with one in 12 when the Government came to power. More than 30 million claims are paid each year, including child benefit to seven million mothers and state pensions to the ten million retired. Many claim more than one benefit.

Efforts to curb benefits such as those paid to single parents

## Lilley beats attempt to stall £200m cut in refugee benefits

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY won a High Court battle yesterday to halt benefits to thousands of asylum seekers aimed at saving £200 million a year. But the legality of the action is to be tested in a full court hearing in April.

Mr Justice Brooke turned down an appeal by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants to halt the cuts in spite of being told that some refugees find themselves destitute and on the streets without shelter. He ruled that he had "no jurisdiction" to intervene over the Government's decision on benefits, with took effect on Monday.

Mr Justice Brooke, brother

## Data protection loophole exposed

Protection for personal information in computers was shown to be weak yesterday when the Law Lords said that it is no crime just to view data on a screen, (Frances Gibb writes). Upholding a ruling by the Court of Appeal, they held that the word "use" in the Data Protection Act 1984 meant more than simply accessing information and reading it.

By a 3-2 majority, the lords said that a Kent police officer who looked at data on the Police National Computer to check vehicle registrations was not guilty of a criminal offence. There was no evidence that he made any unauthorised use of the information, such as passing it to a debt collector.

Mr Brown, 38, of Gillingham, is no longer with the force. In March 1992, he had been fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £1,750 costs on one charge of using, and another of attempting to use, personal data for a purpose other than that for which his police force was registered. — Law report, page 28

## Ashdown court evidence

Paddy Ashdown gave evidence in court yesterday at Yeovil Magistrates' Court against a constituent who is alleged to have threatened him with a flick-knife. Christopher Mason, 51, who is charged with affray and possessing an offensive weapon, was committed for trial on March 1 at Taunton Crown Court. Mr Ashdown spent about 40 minutes giving evidence. He was also cross examined by Michael Cullum, representing Mr Mason, who was remained in custody. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

## Major defends Lords

The Prime Minister said yesterday that Labour's pledge to reform the House of Lords was a "spiteful, thoughtless irrelevance". He made it clear that he did not believe anything to bring the constitution into the next century. Tory peers yesterday started working on their own suggestions for more moderate modifications to the Upper Chamber which could include allowing some hereditary peers to vote alongside working peers.

## School seatbelts ruling

Minibuses and coaches used to carry children to and from school or on school trips will have to be fitted with seatbelts from February next year, Steven Norris, the Road Safety Minister, announced yesterday. But proposals for Europe-wide regulations forcing all coaches to be fitted with seatbelts remain unresolved in Brussels and may not be implemented this year. In the meantime Britain is going alone in implementing regulations requiring a label to be fitted to every seat used by a child aged 16 and under.

## Tory council's triple zero

One of the last eight Tory-controlled district councils in England has set a zero rate council tax for the third year running, despite losing £800,000 from its central government grant. Residents in South Staffordshire will have to pay the county council and local parish precepts, amounting to £452 for a Band D home. This is a 4.6 per cent increase compared with an expected national average rise of 8 per cent. The Conservatives have an overall majority of one on the 50-seat council.

## Rave vicar goes to US

The disgraced "rave" clergyman Chris Brain has left Britain for America to try to make a comeback in the music and media business. Mr Brain, 38, who allegedly abused up to 20 women during his Nine O'Clock services in Sheffield, left the country without his wife after Christmas, according to his lawyer. Stewart Lale said: "Mr Brain has gone to America because he is less well-known there than here and he considered his chances of finding employment in Britain remote. He wants nothing to do with cults or religion."

## The postman bites back

The Royal Mail has declared an entire street a no-go area after a postman was bitten twice by the same dog in a few weeks. Jack Kilpatrick, 55, a postman for 32 years, was first attacked by Henry, an Alsatian cross, early in January, while approaching the door of the house in Causeway, Chessington, Surrey. Last week Henry struck again. Now, in what is believed to be the first time the Royal Mail has suspended deliveries to a street because of a dog, residents are having to collect their mail from the sorting office.

## Cedric's bacon saved

Cedric the pig, who was paraded in front of British Gas shareholders last year as part of a protest against executive greed, has been saved from the slaughterhouse by becoming an honorary member of the GMB general union. The union saved the 200lb saddleback sow, which had become infertile and fat after eating too many biscuits offered by children, by arranging an early retirement package that would include guest appearances at union events. Cedric will continue to live on Midgehute Farm in east London until the dies.

**THE KEY TO COMPUTER CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

The Open University

Are you an experienced computer user who wants to develop your skills and career?

**LEARN TO STAY AHEAD**

SHORT COURSES OR AN MSc

The Open University can offer you a six-month course to update and enhance your computing skills, or the chance to build up to an MSc degree in Computing for Commerce and Industry.

JUST SOME OF THE COURSES AVAILABLE:

- Software Engineering • Object Oriented Software Technology • Artificial Intelligence • Project Management
- Computer Architecture and Operating Systems • User Interface Design and Developments • Relational Database Systems

Our courses are run by specialists and are instantly applicable to the workplace. That's why so many employers believe in our programme. And you don't need to have a degree to take a course.

STUDY IN YOUR OWN TIME WITH TUTOR SUPPORT

The Open University's method of supported open learning means your studies can fit in with your work patterns. Study in your own time, wherever you live with the help of your individual tutor.

To develop your career, complete the coupon or call the OU hotline on 01908 376554 today for a brochure giving complete course details.

Complete and send this coupon to:  
The Open University, PO Box 625 Milton Keynes MK1 1TY. Call the 24 hr Hotline 01908 376554

Please send me your brochure Computing for Commerce & Industry.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

## President wooed by Spring in peace bid

DICK SPRING, the Irish Foreign Minister, sought to persuade President Clinton yesterday of the merits of a Bosnia-style conference to break the impasse in the Northern Ireland peace process.

One day after the British Government all but dismissed the idea, Mr Spring explained it to Mr Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore during a 30-minute meeting at the White House. He emerged saying that the two men had agreed at least to consider the idea.

The White House issued a statement that was studiously neutral and said only that the President "emphasised the importance of rapid progress to all-party talks".

Mr Spring said he remained convinced that the way forward was to bring all parties together in one venue but different rooms for "proximity talks", replicating the formula the Clinton Administration used last year to hammer out a Bosnian peace agreement.

However, he did not entirely reject Britain's preference for elections as a route to all-party talks. He said elections tended to be divisive while negotiations led to consensus, but "the onus is on those proposing elections, the British Government and the Unionist parties, to convince the nationalist parties that an elective process can assist what we are all trying to achieve, which is all-party talks."

## Cabinet gives way on Scott timetable

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN MAJOR yesterday led a Tory campaign to ride the storm that will follow publication of the Scott report next week. But after the intervention of Sir Richard Scott, the Cabinet agreed to allow the Opposition an earlier sighting of the report.

After Labour protested that it would receive the 1,800-page report only half an hour in advance, the judge wrote to the Trade and Industry Department that Robin Cook ought to see the report early. The Opposition will now receive it at about midday, three hours earlier than planned, a concession that Labour dismissed as minor.

Mr Cook said: "This is not the way to handle a serious and considered report that will go to the heart of the way the Government is run. That means about six seconds per page." The media will have to wait until 3.30pm to see copies. Mr Major told the Commons that he believed Sir Richard had carried out his task thoroughly. While not agreeing to Tony Blair's repeated demand that he should say that the investigation had been fairly conducted, the Prime Minister appeared to be trying to convince MPs that he was relaxed about the outcome.

That impression was enhanced by the unusual appearance in the House of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General and the minister likely to be subjected to the greatest criticism in the report. Sir Nicholas, who has seen the report, looked composed, as did William Waldegrave, another minister likely to be under pressure next week. A debate on the report is scheduled for February 26.

A team of civil servants across five government departments began a detailed analysis of the judge's findings yesterday.

## Party leaders write letter on countryside

Continued from page 1

reflected these concerns in a series of speeches imbued with a nostalgia for a rural England that was already passing. In 1924, he said: "The sounds of England, the tinkle of the hammer on the anvil in the country smithy, the creak of the scythe against the whetstone, and the sight of a plough team cutting over the brow of a hill, the sight that has been seen in England since England was a land, and may be seen in England long after the Empire has perished

and every works in England has ceased to function, for centuries the one eternal sight of England."

The countryside he evoked still bore some resemblance to reality when Baldwin died in 1947. In the half-century since it has vanished as completely as a dewy morning, the sound of the scythe against the whetstone, and the sight of a plough team cutting over the brow of a hill, the sight that has been seen in England since England was a land, and may be seen in England long after the Empire has perished

and old maids bicycling to Holy Communion through the morning mist", Orwell's view of Baldwin was jaundiced, to say the least: "One could not even dignify him with the name of a stuffed shirt; he was simply a hole in the air."

Today the CPRE has a branch in every county in England and 45,000 members who pay an annual subscription of £17.50. These do not include Mr Major, Mr Blair or Mr Ashdown.

The parallels with 1929 are not exactly happy for Mr Major. Within three weeks of

signing the letter, Baldwin led the Tories into a crushing defeat in the general election on May 30, when the number of Tory MPs fell from 419 to 250. With 288 Labour MPs, Ramsay MacDonald formed a minority Government, and just as Paddy Ashdown now hopes, Lloyd George's Liberals had a pivotal role with 59 MPs. But within two years the Labour Government had disintegrated in bitter splits and a Tory-dominated coalition was in office.

Letters, page 12

'\$1m sounds a lot but it actually isn't. I don't have it. It has already gone'

# Joan Collins takes a pounding over missing advance

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

JOAN COLLINS took a verbal mauling in the witness stand yesterday in a \$4 million breach of contract case with her former publisher. Earlier, she confessed that she had spent the \$1.2 million advance at the root of the dispute. "A million dollars sounds a lot but it actually isn't," she said. Miss Collins is being sued by Random House for failing to deliver a satisfactory manuscript for two novels, *A Ruling Passion* and *Hell Hath No Fury*. Random House is seeking the return of its advance, while Miss Collins is countering for the balance on the \$4 million.



Joan Collins, being sued for return of advance

Outside court Miss Collins said that the \$1.2 million had gone. "The taxman takes 40 per cent, my agent took his 10 or 15 per cent - I don't remember which. And that doesn't really leave you a great deal," she told the *New York Post*. "I don't have the \$1.2 million. It has already gone." In court, she was called as a hostile witness by Robert Callagy, Random House's sleek lawyer. He showed that in an earlier lawsuit she claimed to have suffered from writer's block during the com-

position of books commissioned by Random House. During an invasion of privacy case against the *Globe* newspaper, Miss Collins had claimed that the distress she suffered from the publication of indiscreet photographs of her with a man had quite put her off writing her novel. "Mr Callagy argued that her claims during that lawsuit were at odds with her claim now that the manuscript she delivered to Random House two months later was 'complete'." "You tell the *Globe* one thing when you're suing them, and you say another thing here when you're suing Ran-



David Troughton and Josie Lawrence, named best actor and actress in the Shakespeare awards

# Comedian wins Shakespeare prize

BY DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

JOSIE LAWRENCE, the comedian who began her career in working-men's clubs, has been recognised for her work as a classical actress. Her performance as Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew* won the Dame Peggy Ashcroft prize for best actress yesterday in the Shakespeare Golden Globe awards in London. Despite the comedy within Shakespeare's battle-of-the-sexes play, Lawrence, 36, had seemed a surprising choice for the Royal Shakespeare Company. Although she had always wanted to be an actress, she had not played any Shakespeare since drama college. As a

comic-actor venturing into the world of the Bard, she was following in the footsteps of Frankie Howerd and Kenneth Williams, among others. Lawrence, best known on television for the improvisation show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, said earlier this year: "I know I needed to get back to more theatre. I could either do quiz shows and join the celebrity circuit, or go back to where I started." The play transfers from Stratford-upon-Avon to the Barbican Centre in the spring. The Sir John Gielgud award for best actor went to David Troughton, who has been playing *Richard III* as a devout jester and supporting John Nettles in Ben Jonson's *The Devil is an Ass*. The

Richard Burton award for most promising newcomer went to Helen McCrory for her *Lady Macbeth*. Silviu Purcारे, director of *The Tempest* at the Notting-ham Playhouse, won the Peter Brook award for best director. The Almeida Theatre in Islington, north London, won the Sir Tyrone Guthrie award for best production for taking its *Hamlet*, starring Ralph Fiennes, to Hackney and New York. The judges included the *Times* critic Benedict Nightingale. Nick Park, 37, creator of the animated characters Wallace and Gromit, collected four awards for *A Close Shave* - including the public choice for favourite film - at the British Animation Awards last night.

# Lincoln clergy ask Carey to end row over dean

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

SENIOR clergy have called on the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, to resolve the long-running crisis at Lincoln Cathedral and rule on the future of its dean.

About 30 canons overwhelmingly approved a resolution at a confrontational meeting between the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, Dean of Lincoln, and his Chapter yesterday, urging Dr Carey to deliver his verdict and take decisive action.

Dr Carey sent two senior churchmen to talk to both factions late last year. Many clergy in the diocese believe the archbishop has been sitting on the findings and has delayed publication.

After yesterday's meeting Canon Raymond Rodger, personal assistant to the Right Rev Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln, said: "The majority feel matters are so bad it can only be resolved by a change of personnel. We want a decisive view from the archbishop."

It was not clear last night whether Dr Jackson, 61, would comply with any ruling from the archbishop. He was appointed by Downing Street in 1989 and, legally, he is untouchable until his retirement at the age of 70.

The dispute can be traced back to an exhibition of the cathedral's Magna Carta in Australia in 1988 to raise funds. It lost £56,000. The following year Dr Jackson was appointed Dean and invited the fraud squad to investigate the cathedral's affairs.

The atmosphere worsened last summer when Dr Jackson was acquitted in a church co-society court of sexual misconduct with Verity Freestone, 31, a former cathedral vergier. Dr Jackson believed he was the victim of a conspiracy.

A spokeswoman for Dr Carey said: "The archbishop shares the widespread anxiety and concern that has been expressed about the situation at Lincoln Cathedral. He is actively considering the implications of the report but these are complex matters and it would not be appropriate to make further comment."

# Doctor in scrumping attack is cleared

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A DOCTOR convicted of assault after hitting a teenager he caught stealing apples from his garden won a court case to clear his name yesterday.

Dr Sujaaz Singh struck Mark Leak, 15, with a 2ft stick as he clambered over a fence with apples in his pockets. At an appeal hearing at Leicester Crown Court a judge ruled he did not know Leak was only scrumping and used reasonable force to defend his property.

Dr Singh, 41, a theatre anaesthetist, said: "My faith in British justice has been sustained. I still believe I did the right thing." He told the court he picked up a stick as he ran into his garden after seeing two boys from his bedroom window. "I was shouting to the boys to stop but they kept running. One got over the fence, the other was straddling it. I just managed to reach him with the tip of my stick, with which I hit him. My intention was to apprehend him and give him over to the police."

Leak, now 17, was later cautioned for theft but told officers Dr Singh struck him twice with a metal pole when he was on top of the fence.

Dr Singh's costs for the appeal and original magistrates court hearing last summer will be paid from central funds. He had been ordered to pay £125 costs and given a six-month conditional discharge by magistrates who found him guilty of common assault.

The Crown Prosecution Service decided to prosecute him after he refused a police caution for the alleged assault on the teenager in August 1994.

# Hunt for rapist after woman is found murdered

BY RICHARD DUCE

A POLICE hunt was underway last night for a convicted rapist after a mother of two was found murdered at her home overlooking a yacht marina near Portsmouth.

Police issued a picture of a man they named as Victor Farrant and warned the public not to approach him. A spokesman said: "The man we are looking for is very dangerous."

The body of Glenda Hoskins, 45, an accountant, was found in the attic of her £110,000 three-bedroom terraced house in Sennen Place, next to the marina at Port Solent, where the television series *Howard's Way* was filmed.

Mrs Hoskins was last seen on Wednesday at 8.30am when she took her children to school. The alarm was raised when her daughter Kate, 17, came home but could not get in because the door was locked from the inside. Kate was joined by her brother David, 14, and they telephoned their father, George, who was separated from their mother. They tried to get in on a number of occasions during the evening and at midnight police broke in and found the body.

Police said the children were "deeply traumatised" and detectives were waiting to speak to them. They are being comforted by relatives.

Officers said they were anxious to trace Mrs Hoskins's white Ford Escort Cabriolet, registration number M987 APO, which is missing. Police said they believed Farrant was the dead woman's boyfriend. Detective Superintendent David Hanna, who is leading

the inquiry, said: "We are urging anyone who has knowledge of Mr Farrant's whereabouts to contact police."

Mr Farrant is thought to live in the Portsmouth area and to have connections with Sussex. He is about 6ft 11in tall and heavily built with grey, shoulder-length wavy hair.

Appearing for Mr Farrant to come forward, Mr Hanna said: "He used the vehicle on a number of occasions and may be in innocent possession of the car. We are anxious to locate him and eliminate him from the inquiry."

Mrs Hoskins worked from home. Police said it was known she had a business appointment on Wednesday after taking her children to school. Inquiries are under way to see if she kept it.

A post-mortem examination was carried out yesterday by the Home Office pathologist, Dr Roger Ainsworth but the result was said to be inconclusive. Further tests will be made, but death by natural causes has been ruled out.



Farrant thought to be the victim's boyfriend

# Convicted killer attacked teenager

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A PSYCHIATRIC patient who raped a teenage girl was a convicted killer who had served only five months in a secure hospital before being released back into the community.

Ranjeet Matharu, 39, strangled his sister in 1986 during an argument at their home in Hounslow, west London. He was convicted of manslaughter due to diminished responsibility and sent to a secure mental hospital. Months later doctors considered him "cured" and released him.

In November last year a Knightsbridge Crown Court jury found him guilty on two charges of rape, one of indecent assault, false imprisonment and kidnapping.

Judge Agliobay adjourned sentence for psychiatric assessment but yesterday granted extra time to doctors who said they did not know the extent of Matharu's condition. He told Matharu he would be jailed for life or sent to a maximum security mental hospital.

The court was told that Matharu, of no fixed abode, toured west London in the van in which he lived searching for victims at random. The rape happened in June last year as his victim was walking home through Fulham.

Matharu, wielding a screwdriver, ordered her into the van and drove her to the Thames at Hammersmith, where he raped her twice. After forcing her to reveal her name, address and telephone number he drove her home. Matharu was caught the next night after he tried to pick up a Polish au pair who fled and alerted police.

# Verger lost job over affair

BY RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE head verger at Ely Cathedral resigned after admitting an adulterous affair with the organist's wife, it was disclosed yesterday. Malcolm Johnson, married with one daughter, has lost a claim for unfair dismissal.

Mr Johnson had an 18-month romance with Sally Treppe, wife of Paul Treppe, the director of music. She broke off the affair after her lover's resignation.

Mr Johnson, who is in his

forties, told the tribunal at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, that he had been forced to resign, but the tribunal said there was no evidence of this. Its written decision said, that even if it had considered his argument, he would have been refused compensation because his conduct was the cause of dismissal.

The written adjudication of the tribunal lifted a reporting restriction on naming Mrs Treppe. The cathedral's Dean, the Very Rev Michael Higgins, told the hearing: "Having undermined what we

stood for, his position had become untenable. Anyone who works for the Church knows there are traditions and Christian principles to be observed. It is not necessary to spell it out."

The Dean admitted that the cathedral had originally tried to gloss over Mr Johnson's departure by saying it was for "health reasons". He said: "He was offered a good package. No one wants to see these affairs lauded in public. I found it quite amazing that within a fortnight he had issued these proceedings."

# Newbury guards bypass soup and superiors on the road to defection

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THREE security guards employed to police the Newbury bypass protesters have changed camps because of heavy-handed tactics by some of their colleagues. Last night the men were enjoying "one or two bevvies" in an ex-warrior encampment at Tot Hill, towards the southern end of the route.

Friends of the Earth, which is spearheading the campaign against the bypass, said it was delighted at the defections. A spokesman claimed that many of the guards were fed up with the Reliant security company. "They forbid fraternisation with the protesters and have employed heavy-handed tactics in dealing with the protest."

ant dismissed claims of heavy-handedness and said: "People are quite entitled to change their views of life. We cannot legislate for people's opinions. We live in a democracy." She had visited the site on Wednesday and, despite the cold, had found the 597 other guards in good spirits, thanks to three soup-runs a day.

Brette Shepherd, 20, one of the defectors, who was unemployed for two years before joining Reliant, said the final straw was being ordered by a supervisor not to chat with the environmentalists. "It was all too much, so I have given it up. I am staying at the camp for the rest of the week."

Stephen Ray, like Mr Shepherd from Portsmouth,

said he had witnessed one of his superiors assaulting a female protester and making a remark. "I was told to stand in the car park of a nearby garage. While I was there I told two policemen what I had seen." He had then been sacked.

Graham Wanstall, the other defector, said he was demoted from a security cameraman to a linesman after trying to film a senior guard hitting a protester.

Friends of the Earth said last night that the three had been given free membership and were to be fitted at a rally and march this weekend.

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said he could not comment on the allegations of assault. Earlier, rush-hour traffic

in the centre of Newbury was halted when about 30 protesters climbed on to low-loader lorries and strapped themselves to machines being taken to the site. A Thames Valley Police spokeswoman said: "Both south-bound lanes of the A34 through the centre of Newbury were blocked and at one point there was a nine-mile tailback."

She said that seven people were arrested and charged with wilful obstruction of the highway.

Church groups around Newbury are angry that a religious service planned for today on the bypass site will be led by a Church of England vicar from Cambridgeshire. They fear the service will appear to condone the protesters' activities.

Pay no legal fees if you call Direct Line now.

## Why transfer your mortgage to Direct Line?

### Your building society reveals all.

Feature	APR	Monthly Repayment	Flexibility	Transfer Fee
Standard	6.75%	£58.30	£4.50	£750.00
Special	6.00%	£52.10	£4.50	£750.00
Direct Line	6.75%	£58.30	£4.50	£750.00

Just received your building society mortgage statement? Now for the good news.

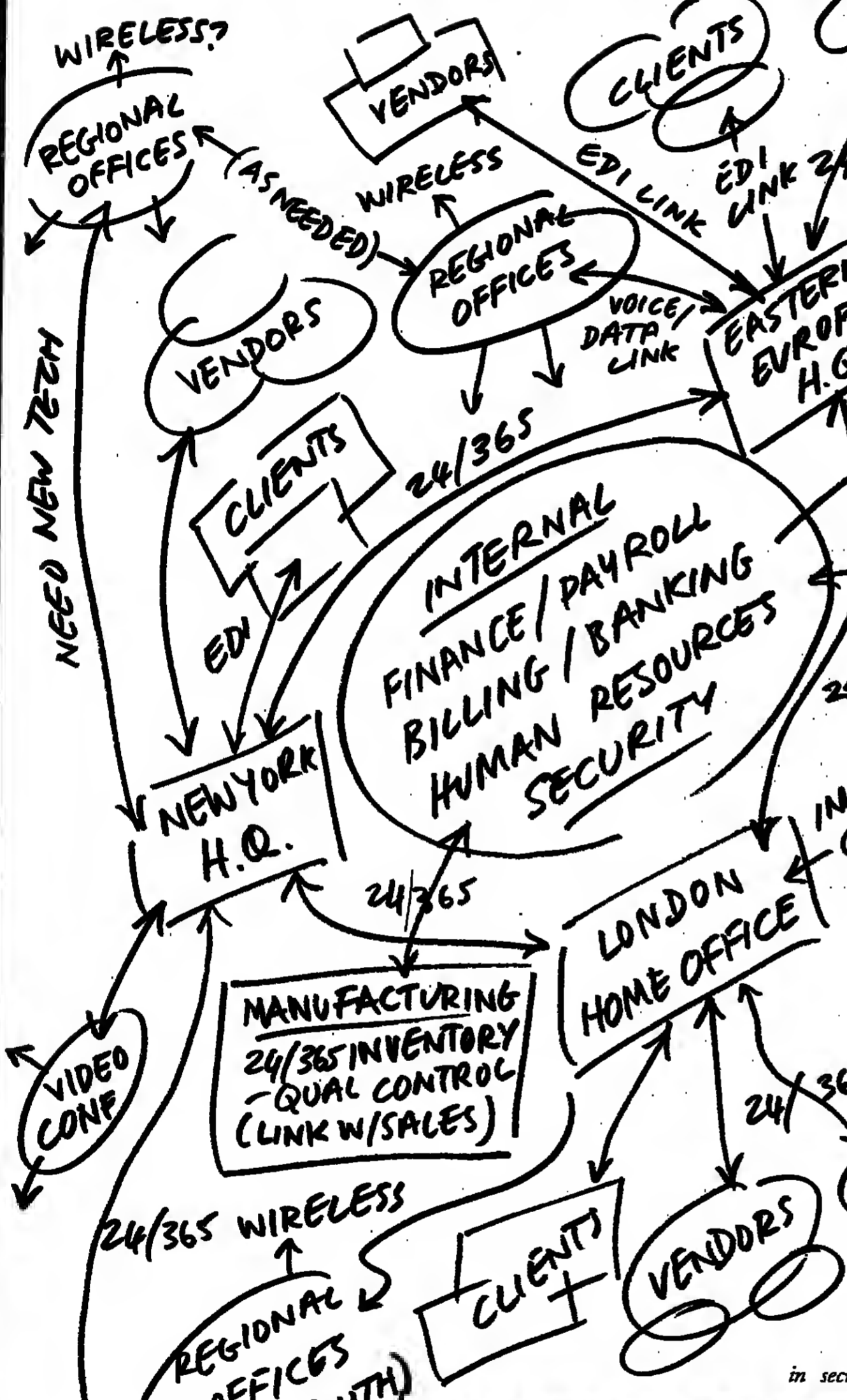
- Transferring to Direct Line can save you over £40\* every month on your mortgage.
- Transfer using our solicitors' package and we'll pay your legal fees.
- We'll give you a free valuation.
- Mortgages are available for up to 85% of the property valuation or purchase price, whichever is lower.
- We also guarantee to save you 20% on your existing buildings insurance.
- From 14th February, our APR reduces to 6.7%.

Call one of the numbers below and let Direct Line reveal just how much you could save.

**0181 649 9099 LONDON**    **0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER**    **0141 221 9099 GLASGOW**

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT21

# THE MORE COMPLEX THE CONNECTIONS,



ASIA  
- SALES  
- VENDORS  
- NEW OFFICES  
(INTERNET?)  
SECURITY?

NEED NEW TECH  
SOFTWARE:  
- VIDEO CONF  
- GLOBAL CONNECT  
- WHO WILL INSTALL  
- FINANCING

INTERNET SECURE  
SATELLITE?

How ironic. As the demands of your far-flung business network become more painfully convoluted, the solution becomes simplicity itself. Call Digital. You need to weave hardware and software from different suppliers into a seamless, productive whole? Digital's strengths in multi-vendor service and support are unequalled. You want to harness the competitive potential of the Internet, without exposing your company to information highwaymen? Digital's years of experience in secure public networking are unrivalled. Above all, you have to plan today for an enormously uncertain tomorrow? Every Digital solution—from CPUs to storage, asset management to migration services—is engineered to keep working, to keep evolving, to keep paying dividends, come what may. In other words, if it's your job to connect an enterprise with its data, its customers, its partners and the world, your shortlist should be very short indeed.

# THE SIMPLER THE CHOICE.

SOUTH AMERICA  
- SALES  
- VENDORS  
- NEW OFFICES  
SECURITY

**digital**

WHATEVER IT TAKES™

Call us on 0800 320 300, e-mail to [moreinfo@digital.com](mailto:moreinfo@digital.com)  
or visit us at <http://www.digital.com>

©1995 Digital Equipment Corporation. Digital and the DIGITAL logo are trademarks and Whatever It Takes™ is a service mark of Digital Equipment Corp.



# Parents angry at cut in sentence Canoe disaster chief is freed on appeal

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE managing director of an activities centre, jailed for the manslaughter of the four young victims of the Lyme Bay canoeing disaster, is to be freed, Peter Kite, 46, who has spent 14 months in jail, had his three-year sentence cut by a year by the Court of Appeal yesterday. With remission he is eligible for immediate release.

Kite, of Richmond, south-west London, had his appeal against conviction on four manslaughter charges dismissed by the same judges. Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, sitting with Mr Justice Harrison and Mr Justice Thomas, said that they were "wholly satisfied" that the verdicts returned by the jury at Winchester Crown Court in December 1994, were not in any way unsafe.

But they agreed to cut the sentence after hearing from Edmund Lawson, QC, representing Kite, that the longest sentence ever passed for simi-

lar charges of manslaughter caused by gross negligence was 21 months.

The trial judge had based his sentence on the fact that the charges were serious and demanded a term "of substance". Lord Justice Swinton Thomas said: "We entirely agree with that comment by the judge, but in all the circumstances of the case is three years too long." He said the judges had agreed that an appropriate sentence would be two years.

Parents of the victims gathered outside the court, confronting each other. Denis Walker, father of Rachel Walker, 16, said: "Kite was sentenced to three years, but will soon be free. My daughter was sentenced to death. Why couldn't Kite behave like a man and serve the rest of his sentence?"

Caroline Langley, mother of Claire Langley, also 16, said: "I am just sad and angry about what has happened. This is a

life sentence for the parents of the victims."

Kite was head of the St Albans Centre which was also convicted of four manslaughter charges and fined £60,000 at the Winchester trial. Four sixth-formers from Southway School, Plymouth, died on March 22, 1993, during what was described at the trial as an "ill-conceived and poorly executed" canoe trip.

The teenagers took part in what was meant to be a two-hour paddle to Charmouth, Dorset, but the weather worsened and the canoes became swamped, forcing the teenagers into the water for hours. The other victims were Dean Sayer, 17, and Simon Dunne, 16. Four children and three teachers were rescued.

Dean Sayer's father, Gerry, said at his home in Plymouth that he was disgusted with the decision to free Kite. "I cannot believe it, he should have done three years because that is what he was given," he said.



Enid Ashby with the weather vane design eventually approved by the PCC

# Vane dispute will not blow over

By JOANNA BALE

A DISPUTE over the design of a church weather vane that has divided a Kent village for four years has been resolved, although not to everyone's satisfaction.

Enid Ashby, 85, decided in 1992 to raise funds for a new vane for St Mary the Virgin, Rolvenden, to replace the original, which was blown down. After many hours making Christmas and birthday cards and selling lavender from her garden, she raised £800 and presented her design for the vane, a donkey standing on a palm leaf, to the parochial church council.

But her idea fell foul of David Barham, the squire, and his wife Catherine, who dismissed it as "asinine" and tried to persuade the PCC to reject it for a more traditional arrow design.

The PCC has now informed Mrs Ashby that a compromise vane, designed by a local artist, has been chosen. Mrs Ashby has refused to hand over the money she raised.

"This has upset me a lot and at the moment I feel that I am not going to church any more," she said. "I thought it was an original idea. Every-



Mrs Ashby's design that was rejected

body has cockerels or arrows and I thought a weather vane with a donkey on it standing on a palm leaf instead of an arrow would depict the Christian story."

The approved design is an arrow and, as a concession to Mrs Ashby, the figure of the Virgin Mary on a donkey, within a circle of leaves, topped with a cross.

Mr Barham said: "The result is a compromise for the sake of village unity. An anonymous donor in the village has come forward with £1,000 and a blacksmith has been commissioned. A lot of work has gone into finding this compromise and I am now happy to forget about the whole dispute."

# Artists reap double benefit from apples



THE Cézanne exhibition that opened at the Tate Gallery yesterday is predicted to be a great success, with at least 4,000 visitors a day.

Although the artist was financially independent after his banker father died, he was reluctant to travel. As a result he frequently painted similar scenes, be it a mountain, he could see from his house, or the apples that always seemed to be inside it.

Cézanne was not alone in his love of apples, but where, as he saw in their infinite and variable beauty — there are more than 7,000 varieties — he and his contemporaries also valued them for the effect on their bowels.

The slogan "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" was not based on any great knowledge of the nutritional value of apples, but was rather an acknowledgement of the gentle laxative effect of apple juice. In the 19th century, regularity of the bowels was considered as important for general health as regular physical exercise is today.

Unlike the purgatives of the Victorian era, apple juice has no sinister side-effects. The

Institute of Food Research has carried out extensive studies on the medicinal benefits of eating apples and also the factors that make particular apples popular in different parts of the country. They are about to launch a travelling display, Core Science, about the science of apples.

The apple-a-day advice may have a scientific basis. Apples contain sugar, dietary fibre, potassium, vitamin C and some carotenoids, responsible for the yellow, red and orange colours in fruit and vegetables. It is probable that the carotenoids provide protection against heart disease and malignancies.

It may well be better to wash rather than peel an apple before eating it. Discarding the peel and leaving all the core halves the amount of fibre and vitamin C available. Apples are like grapes: it is the carotenoids in the grape skins that give red wine its cardio-protective quality.

DR THOMAS  
STUTTGART

Cézanne of the day, page 29

# BRITISH GAS PROPOSALS TO CREATE TWO SEPARATE COMPANIES IN 1997

## WHY THE CHANGE?

The gas market is changing rapidly. The creation of two separate and independent listed companies will have clear benefits in the managing of our businesses more effectively, to the advantage of customers, shareholders and employees.

One company will focus on the supply of gas and related services in Britain. The other will continue to be Britain's single national transporter of gas and also develop the international gas business.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR EMPLOYEES?

Employees will benefit from the better long-term prospects for both these separate companies.

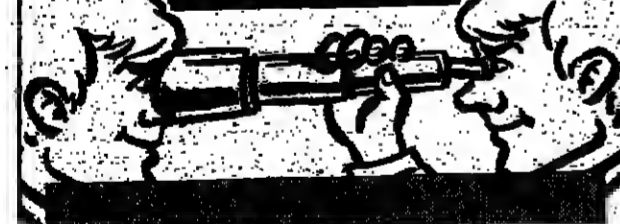
## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CUSTOMERS?

We are dedicated to the continuous improvement of our service to customers. Single-minded attention to the needs of customers will speed the restoration of high standards of service. Above all a safe, reliable and secure gas transportation system will continue to be maintained.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHAREHOLDERS?

There is a great deal of work to be done. It is unlikely to be before the Spring of 1997 that a decision to proceed can be taken and formal proposals put to shareholders. Full details will be made available at that time and there is no need for any action at the moment. For more background ring the Shareholder line on 0343 003 006 which operates at the local call rate.

# AT THESE PRICES DISTANT RELATIVES NEEDN'T BE SO DISTANT.



USA	£1.28	£3.40	62%
India	£7.39	£11.94	35%
South Africa	£4.81	£7.05	32%
Hong Kong	£4.22	£6.56	36%
Japan	£4.34	£8.77	51%
Australia	£2.34	£5.23	55%
Brazil	£7.16	£9.94	28%
Canada	£1.75	£3.40	49%
Germany/France	£2.22	£2.59	14%
Ireland	£6.69	£8.25	19%

(Price comparison based on a 10 minute call)

- \* Savings to 100's of countries
- \* All major credit cards and Delta accepted
- \* "Minute Miles" bonus available
- \* No start-up costs, membership or joining fees
- \* Business and Residential customers welcome
- \* Operators available, 24hrs a day, 7 days a week

**FREEPHONE**  
0800 376 66 66



BEFORE YOU PHONE THE WORLD. PHONE US.

British Gas



### Fast-track libel cases would go to judges

By Frances Gibb

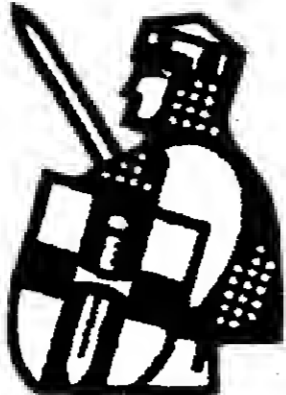
A FAST-TRACK procedure for libel claims up to £10,000 was unveiled by the Government yesterday. The Defamation Bill will introduce a summary procedure in which judges, not juries, can dispose of more straightforward claims.

The Bill will also allow new defences for defendants willing to offer amends to plaintiffs and to pay whatever damages a judge might assess. Providers of electronic media services, such as the Internet, will be protected against libel proceedings. Those who do not have primary responsibility for publication, such as printers, distributors or sellers, would also have a defence.

The aim is to get cases before a judge more quickly and reduce the number going before juries to long, expensive trials. Judges would have the power to dismiss weak claims and, in the case of strong claims, to make awards of up to £10,000.

## Political foes merge to protect media interests

By Alexandra Frean  
Media Correspondent



Express Newspapers takeover threat gone

TWO peers from opposite sides of the political spectrum announced a merger yesterday that will create one of Britain's most powerful media conglomerates.

The *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express*, once part of the mighty Beaverbrook empire, are combining with MAL, owner of two ITV stations and a money-broking business, in a defensive move that will remove the threat of takeover from both companies.

Lord Stevens of Ludgate, chairman of United News and Media, is a true-blue Tory who has pledged to ensure that his national newspapers continue to support the Conservative Party. Lord Hollick, chairman of MAL, is a card-carrying Labour supporter and eschews the trappings of nobility. He despises his City nickname, the Red Baron, and is referred to in the merger documents as Clive Hollick. Lord Stevens uses his title throughout.

Lord Hollick is expected to call all the shots in the newly merged group. He said yesterday: "I will probably continue to read [*the Express*] and continue to disagree with it ...

financial services. Neither has ever had the absolute power over their respective press and television interests like the old-fashioned media barons.

Lord Stevens was born into a middle-class family, the head of which invented the first hearing aid to be worn in the ear. Although prickly, tough and proud, Lord Stevens shows glints of humour. "He is not really the kind of person you would have to dinner unless he were chairman of a newspaper," one associate said.

Regarded by some as a shrewd operator, others consider him out of his depth in Fleet Street. Since he took the helm of *United* in 1981, the circulations of his two flagship titles have continued to decline. The *Daily Express* sells 1.28 million copies, compared with more than four million in the mid-1950s. The *Sunday* title has a circulation of 1.33 million, against a high of 4.2 million in 1965.

Although Lord Stevens has made a last-ditch attempt to restore the titles to their earlier glory by appointing new editors and increasing investment, it is believed that they desperately need new management.

Lord Hollick is wiry and

intense, a bulldog of a man, said by associates to be driven by ambition. He is a grammar-school boy from Southampton, whose father was a French polisher. He studied sociology, politics and psychology at Nottingham University, where he was president of the drama society. At 28 he became the youngest director of Hambros Bank.

He helped to sort out the Mirror group after Robert Maxwell's death but resigned his directorship soon afterwards. He moved into television in 1994 — an interest that stems in part from his Trinidadian wife, Susan Woodford, a former director of *ITV's World in Action*.

The rationale behind the merger is that it will allow both companies to make cost savings in the areas of news-gathering and distribution. The company envisages the creation of multimedia digital newsrooms to serve its national and regional papers and its television stations. There will be also opportunities for cross-promotion between the print and television operations.

The deal, page 21  
Pennington, page 23  
Global race, page 25

## Liverpool mourns death of Worlock

By Kate Alderson  
and Ruth Gledhill



Archbishop Worlock, left, and Bishop Sheppard, whose united leadership encouraged ecumenism

TRIBUTES poured in yesterday for the Most Rev Derek Worlock, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, who died peacefully in his sleep after a long battle with cancer.

Archbishop Worlock's close friendship and working relationship with the Right Rev David Sheppard, Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, helped to unite the city and inspired better relations between the churches. Their close friendship earned them the sobriquet "fish 'n' chips" because they were always together and never out of the newspapers.

Bishop Sheppard said: "All the Churches have lost a great archbishop. The city and people of Liverpool have lost a great champion."

Archbishop Worlock, 76, died in hospital at 5.30am yesterday. His death came 20 years after he took up his post in the city and three days after his 76th birthday.

He had surgery to remove his left lung 3½ years ago after contracting cancer and was admitted to hospital last July suffering from exhaustion. He had a brain tumour that was inoperable.

## Runaways threaten beaver plan

By Gillian Bowditch

A PLAN to reintroduce the European beaver to Scotland is under threat after children found one of its Canadian cousins at the side of Loch Lomond. It is the second thought to have escaped from a private collection.

Sandy Kerr, head of biodiversity at Scottish Natural Heritage, said: "The two types could create a hybrid that might prove sterile. However, he hopes the problem can be overcome if there are a few Canadian colonies."

The female beaver found exhausted by the fish is now recovering in the Heston Wildlife Rescue Centre at Beth, Ayrshire.

A single bell tolled at a lunchtime mass in the city's Roman Catholic cathedral yesterday. The tributes praised a man universally regarded as a champion of the poor, scourge of sectarianism and devotee of Liverpool.

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, said Archbishop Worlock was an outstanding servant of the Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said: "His ministry reached far beyond the boundaries of the Roman Catholic community and touched with grace all the Christian churches of our land."

The search for a successor is almost complete. Front-runners are the Right Rev David Konstant, Bishop of Leeds, and the Right Rev Patrick Kelly, Bishop of Salford. A similar choice would be the Right Rev Vincent Nichols, Bishop of North London and Liverpool.

Obituary, page 19

## Buying food for your heart's delight

By Robin Young

THIS weekend, everything from pizzas and loaves to cheese and chocolates is available heart-shaped for St Valentine's Day.

Besides running special offers on red roses, bouquets at £4.99 and dozens at £9.99, supermarkets are also keen to emphasise exotic fruits such as guava, mango, physalis, tamarillo and passion fruit as alternative Valentine's Day gifts, and to draw attention to vegetables with aphrodisiac reputations, including red peppers, avocado, asparagus and aubergine. For more old-fashioned romantics, oysters should be available from 49p each.

Advertised buys include: fresh boned pork leg £3.28 kg, fresh beef rump steak £7.19 kg, baby new potatoes 49p punnet, tomatoes 49p, almond fingers 49p for seven, Borden's Sovereign fresh chicken stir fry £1.99 for 1lb, Chinese stir fry mix 99p for 370g, Ross Oriental Express egg fried rice 99p for 450g, Amy's yellow bean and black bean sauce 89p for 230g, fresh pork spare-rib chops £2.69 kg, fresh whole duckling 1.1kg £4.79, sweet cured bacon steaks £1.19 for 300g, crispy breaded cod fillets 79p for 195g, chicken pizza £1.49 for 340g, Harrogate Hebrat-shaped, smoked salmon pillows £3.95, heart-shaped canapes 95p each, Waller's Coeur £3.35, Coeur de Chevre £4.50, Coeur de Neuchâtel £2.95, tiger prawns with mango and ginger dressing £3.95 for 100g,

smoked eel and potato salad £4.95 for 100g, turkey breast fillet £3.99 for 700g, cheese and ham chicken Kiev £1.59 for two, prawns £1.99 for 200g, mackerel fillets £2.79 for 600g, broccolini florets 99p for 907g, trawler tart 99p for 360g, Marks & Spencer Borden's chicken drumsticks £1.99 for 540g, frozen, at sea haddock in breadcrumbs £2.99 for 600g, chicken rissole with herb dumplings £2.29 for 1lb, Colman's meat for two £4.99 for 270g, Sturton's oranges 1.99 for two, Morrisons whole trout £2.84 kg, large cleaned salmon £2.38 kg, middle bacon £2.84 kg, Cheddar cheese £2.84 kg, Sainsbury's Turkey breast steaks £3.19 for 567g, dried stewing chicken £4.99 for 1.4kg, medium Irish cheddar £1.89 lb, red plums 69p lb, tomatoes 49p lb, white Heston rolls 99p for 20, Sainsbury's Chicken Kiev £2.69 for four, unsprinkled rindless back bacon £1.99 for 312g, cod portions in crispy breadcrumbs £1.95 for 600g, loose oyster potatoes 21p lb, spinach 99p for 400g, apple, tomatoes 84p for 450g, oranges £1.39 for eight, Sainsbury's Choux A Frozer chicken breasts £3.48 for 1.3kg, fresh baked turkey breast joint £2.99 for 300g, Lidl's German lettuce 59p per pack, red potatoes £1.09 per punnet, passion fruit £1.49 each, Tesco Half leg of lamb £5.19 kg, pork spare-rib chops £2.79 kg, British £3.99 kg, haddock £1.98 lb, salmon steak £2.95 lb, crumpets 52p for 15, Waitrose Artisan pork bunnesse shoulder rose £2.99 kg, English dried veal £2.95 for 1.6kg, White celery 55p for 700g, large cantaloupe melons £1.49 each, shrimp fruit 79p for four, new potatoes 29p lb.

LIMITED PERIOD ONLY

# FREE FOR A YEAR

NO DEPOSIT & NOTHING TO PAY FOR THE FIRST YEAR

## 4 YEARS - NO DEPOSIT

INTEREST FREE CREDIT AND

# 25% OFF EVERYTHING

IN THE MAPLES GOLD LEAF SALE COLLECTION

CLARISSA UPHOLSTERY COLLECTION AVAILABLE IN 4/3/2 SEATER SOFA, CHAIR AND STOOL COMBINATIONS WITH FULLY REMOVEABLE MACHINE WASHABLE COVERS IN A RANGE OF STYLISH COLOURS

**UPHOLSTERY**

Maples have a huge range of upholstery collections, from £999 to £3,900. Available in an exciting choice of all the latest designs, colours and fabrics.

**CARPETS**

Free fitting and free underlay is available on Maples' extensive collection of carpets from £7.99m to £56.99m. Guaranteed lowest prices. Let us estimate and prove it.

**DINING FURNITURE**

Modern and traditional dining and cabinet furniture, ranging in price from £799 to £3,000. The highest quality craftsmanship that would grace any room.

**BEDS**

Maples International range of beds plus many quality brands from £299 to £1,999. Sizes and options to suit your needs all at outstanding value with many available for immediate delivery.

**CURTAINS**

We offer a full made-to-measure service with free advice and estimating. You will find an outstanding choice of styles, textures, colours and a variety of fabric types.

OFFER NOW AVAILABLE IN ALL DEPARTMENTS - OPEN SUNDAY

MAPLES

THE FINE ART OF FURNISHING

CALL YOUR LOCAL STORE ON 0345 585851 - NEW SUPERSTORES NOW OPEN IN PRESTON & PETERBOROUGH

BIRMINGHAM · BOURNEMOUTH · BRIGHTON · BRISTOL · BROMLEY · CARDIFF · CHELMSFORD · CHESTER · EXETER · JERSEY · KINGSTON · LANCASTER (Waring & Gillow) · LEEDS · LEICESTER · MANCHESTER · OXFORD · PRESTON · SOUTHAMPTON · SOUTHPORT · TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD · WATFORD · WORTHING

BOOK A VALENTINE

£69 SPECIAL ON EUROSTAR TO PARIS OR BRUSSELS.

0345-881 881

EUROSTAR TRAIN SERVICES

Not for sale above special offer. In Europe only. Subject to availability. Offer valid until 28/02/96. \*Must pay at least £100 for return journey. \*\*See Eurostar website for details.

هناك من النحل

16/02/96 35



The average person doesn't need a car with twin airbags and power steering.

The average person doesn't need a car with a high level brake light and a coded key pad immobiliser.

The average person doesn't need a car with electric front windows and three rear three-point safety belts.

The average person doesn't need a car with a driver's door mirror with built in blind spot eliminator.

The average person doesn't need a car with a six speaker remote control stereo radio cassette.

The average person doesn't need a car with a steering column with height and reach adjustment.

The average person has 2.4 children.

**THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN AVERAGE PERSON.**

**406**  
PEUGEOT   
THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

THE NEW PEUGEOT 406 FROM £12,595. FOR YOUR FREE INFORMATION PACK CALL 0345 000 406.

SOCKS  
VALENTIN  
69

# Services face rent increases in £227m package



Inge: £125,850 salary

BY MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SHARP increase in rents for Service married quarters was announced yesterday as part of the overall pay deal for the 227,400 men and women in the Armed Forces. The package will cost taxpayers an extra £227 million in the next financial year.

Most rents are to increase by 10 to 15 per cent, and by 25 per cent for the biggest houses. In an attempt by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body to match Service rents with those in the

private sector. To cushion the blow, the increases will be staged.

Despite increasing concern over Army recruiting shortages, particularly for the infantry, pay differentials still favour the top brass. The four most senior officer ranks — field marshal to major-general and their equivalents in the Royal Navy and RAF — are to receive an average increase of 4.6 per cent (ranging from 3.9 to 5.6 per cent) and the remainder 3.5 per cent (3.2 to 3.8 per cent) by December 1.

The salary of Britain's most senior

military officer, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, will rise to £125,850 and that of the most junior soldier, a newly recruited private, to £3,921. The higher award will affect 153 senior officers, including four generals, 11 lieutenant-generals and 43 major-generals.

However, the differential between the highest and lowest ranks is absorbed by two other elements of the award which only benefit Service personnel of the rank of brigadier and below. The men and women in this category will receive an additional "X

factor" increase of 0.5 per cent, a special "disruption" allowance, and a beneficial change in the way pension liability is assessed that will mean the equivalent of a further 2 per cent in take-home pay, phased over two years.

The rest of the pay award is also being staged so that 1 per cent of the increase will be held back until December 1. The bulk of the award will be paid from April 1.

Last year the most senior officer ranks were awarded a 3.2 per cent increase. All other ranks received an average 2.6 per cent.

ARMED FORCES		
	Current	Dec 1 1996
Field Marshal	121,130	125,850
General	55,050	101,280
Lieutenant-general	41,000	75,000
Major-General	35,500	69,290
Brigadier	27,738	50,257
Colonel	47,020-51,288	45,147-54,215
Lieutenant colonel	40,291-44,628	42,281-46,724
Major	28,643-34,223	30,054-36,010
Captain	22,571-29,228	23,698-27,521
Lieutenant	17,649-22,208	18,568-23,345
Second Lieutenant	13,322	14,083
Warrant Officer	18,944-28,241	19,637-27,588
Staff Sergeant	17,725-23,280	18,590-24,484
Sergeant	16,798-22,252	17,588-21,186
Corporal	14,194-18,827	14,888-19,488
Lance corporal	11,600-16,529	12,110-17,408
Private	9,476-14,088	9,979-15,008
Private IV	8,488	8,581

# Nurses say 2% deal is insult to the profession

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

NURSING unions reacted with a mixture of outrage and disbelief yesterday at the gap between their award and the near 7 per cent rise for some junior doctors. Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said: "Today's award is derisory. Nurses will expect equality with junior doctors. They are worth 6.8 per cent too."

The rises for doctors and dentists of up to 6.8 per cent took the highest paid consultant to £106,140. The nurses were awarded a 2 per cent increase in national pay scales plus an unquantified amount to be negotiated locally.

The Royal College of Midwives said the award was "insulting" and sent a signal to women that "their health and that of their babies is devalued".

Junior doctors' salaries range from £22,000 to £42,000 including overtime compared with £10,000 to £24,000 for nurses.

Unison said the pay award would do nothing to solve the staffing crisis in the NHS. Malcolm Wing, deputy head of Unison, said: "Staff will continue to leave the service in droves, leading to even more bed closures. School leavers will continue to look elsewhere for a career."

However, the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts said the national award of 2 per cent was "too large to give the complete flexibility that trusts want" to negotiate their own rates of pay.

Phillip Hunt, the director, said: "Next year will be very tight financially. Trusts want to be fair to staff but at the end of the day they can't let pay increases eat into the resources available for patient

care." NHS unions are to meet on Monday to discuss plans for a nationally co-ordinated campaign to put an agreed pay demand to each individual NHS trust. Nurses sought total rises of 8 per cent and physiotherapists and other professions allied to medicine asked for 16 per cent in evidence to the pay review bodies.

The unions are angry at the Government's refusal to set guidelines for the size of the local element of pay award. Last year, nurses received a national pay award of 1 per cent with a recommendation that trusts should offer up to a further 2 per cent. By the end of the year, following threats of industrial action, all but a handful of trusts had paid the full 3 per cent.

Under an agreement that secured the end of the pay dispute last autumn every NHS trust will raise its pay scale by the full 3 per cent already agreed by the majority of trusts from 31 March.

In contrast with the nurses, the Government has dropped



its drive to introduce local pay for doctors. Consultants and GPs are to receive a national 3.8 per cent rise with a 4.8 per cent increase for dentists, with no local element. The rises will be staged, to ease the pressure on NHS trusts budgets, with the final 1 per cent paid at 1 December.

Last year consultants were offered up to an extra 2.5 per cent on top of the 2.5 per cent national rise if they signed local contracts. More than 90 per cent of consultants failed to take up the offer according

to the British Medical Association. Junior doctors will receive increases ranging from 4.3 per cent to 6.8 per cent. However, only the few who do no overtime will receive the biggest rises.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said comparing the nurses' award with that of junior doctors was not comparing like with like. "The policy is not 2 per cent for nurses, the policy is locally negotiated pay."

He would not be drawn on the likely size of local awards. He said the 2 per cent national rise was a floor from which local negotiations could start. "You will not find me offering any central norm on what local pay should be. That should be left to local negotiations."

Defending the size of the increases to junior doctors he said: "They are an example of pay being targeted at specific pressure points to ease shortages."

Mr Dorrell defended the staging of the pay award to doctors and dentists, which is expected to save £30 million. "If you spend money on staff salaries you have less money for growth in activity," he said.

to the British Medical Association. Junior doctors will receive increases ranging from 4.3 per cent to 6.8 per cent. However, only the few who do no overtime will receive the biggest rises.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said comparing the nurses' award with that of junior doctors was not comparing like with like. "The policy is not 2 per cent for nurses, the policy is locally negotiated pay."

He would not be drawn on the likely size of local awards. He said the 2 per cent national rise was a floor from which local negotiations could start. "You will not find me offering any central norm on what local pay should be. That should be left to local negotiations."

Defending the size of the increases to junior doctors he said: "They are an example of pay being targeted at specific pressure points to ease shortages."

Mr Dorrell defended the staging of the pay award to doctors and dentists, which is expected to save £30 million. "If you spend money on staff salaries you have less money for growth in activity," he said.

# Top civil servants may get 11% more

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

SOME civil servants could have an 11 per cent pay rise this year under a new performance-related pay structure.

The Review Body on Senior Salaries recommended that pay increases for about 3,000 top civil servants should range from nothing for "unsatisfactory performers" to 11 per cent for the few assessed as "truly exceptional".

Greater flexibility in order to attract senior managers from the private sector lies behind the new system. From April, individual government departments will determine pay increases, thus limiting the role of the review body, which will in future recommend only broad bandings.

A 3 per cent rise in the maximum payable to permanent secretaries will allow the Government to offer up to £154,500 to recruits from the private sector. The minimum

for the 40 or so top civil servants at permanent secretary level will remain £90,000. The new structure is designed to allow "outstanding performers" to move from the bottom of the band to the top in five or six years.

In reality, no one at present is anywhere near the top. Although some agency chief executives, including Derek Lewis, the former head of the Prison Service, have been paid more than £130,000, the highest paid officer in the traditional Civil Service is Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary. He is paid £118,000. Sir Terry Burns, Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, is paid £110,000.

The overall Civil Service pay bill is expected to fall by 7 per cent as staff numbers fall. The pay for about 1,500 judges is to be raised by 3.9 per cent, and the Lord Chief Justice's will rise to £127,217.

JUDICIARY		
	Current	New
Group One: Lord Chief Justice	124,138	127,217
Group Two: Lords of Appeal, Master of the Rolls, Lord President of the Court of Session	114,674	117,642
Group Three: Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Justice of Appeal, Inner House Judges of Court of Session, President of Family Division, Vice-Chancellor	110,137	112,791
Group Four: High Court Judges, Outer House Judges of Court of Session	89,957	100,511
Group Five: Circuit Judges	58,241	65,778
Group Six: District Judges	72,524	73,537
Group Seven: Chairmen of Industrial Tribunals and magistrates	59,327	60,270

	No in post	Current	New
Permanent secretary level	35	90-150,000	90-154,500
Grade Two (deputy secretaries)	113	67-99,000	67-100,500
Grade Three (under secretaries)	450	55-82,500	51-85,000

	Current rates	Rates 1-4-95	Rates 1-12-96
House Officer	22,382	23,699	23,894
Senior House Officer	31,830	33,137	33,457
Registrar	33,955	35,411	35,729
Senior Registrar	40,798	42,557	42,957
Consultant	52,440	53,910	54,430
General practitioners	45,188	44,340	44,701

\* The annual salary for doctors in training comprises a basic rate of pay plus additional duty hours, paid at the rate applicable to their contracted hours pattern. The rates shown are based on those applicable to doctors in training on the medium of their salary scale and including the maximum number of 40 hours permitted under the hours contract of the New Deal for a period of 64 hours a week. † Average intended net remuneration.

Grade	Salary point from 1/4/95	Salary point from 1/4/96	Grade	Current	New
1	12,542	12,675	7	7,195-8,245	7,499-8,680
2	13,083	13,209	8	8,729-9,959	9,034-10,315
3	13,624	13,750	A	9,799-11,180	10,094-11,575
4	14,165	14,291	B	10,799-12,280	11,113-12,694
5	14,706	14,832	C	11,799-13,280	12,118-13,699
6	15,247	15,373	D	12,799-14,280	13,118-14,699
7	15,788	15,914	E	13,799-15,280	14,118-15,699
8	16,329	16,455	F	14,799-16,280	15,118-16,699
9	16,870	16,996	G	15,799-17,280	16,118-17,699
10	17,411	17,537	H	16,799-18,280	17,118-18,699
11	17,952	18,078	I	17,799-19,280	18,118-19,699
12	18,493	18,619	J	18,799-20,280	19,118-20,699
13	19,034	19,165	K	19,799-21,280	20,118-21,699
14	19,575	19,706	L	20,799-22,280	21,118-22,699
15	20,116	20,242	M	21,799-23,280	22,118-23,699
16	20,657	20,783	N	22,799-24,280	23,118-24,699
17	21,198	21,324			

School Group	Salary range 1.4.95	Salary range 1.12.96
Very small primary	25,125-29,610	25,371-30,251
Small/medium primary	27,114-32,964	27,378-33,258
Medium/large primary	29,810-36,990	30,201-37,047
Medium secondary	33,498-42,008	33,825-42,417
Large secondary	35,019-43,529	35,351-44,069
2,000-plus pupils	42,539-53,032	43,366-53,666

# Teachers' unions fear bigger classes and job cuts

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

THE phased pay award for teachers of 3.75 per cent brought predictions of further increases in class sizes, redundancies and shortages of staff in key subjects.

Teachers will get a 2.75 per cent rise in April, with a further 1 per cent in December. The award will be worth 3.1 per cent over the full year and cost an estimated £346 million.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, accepted the pay review body's recommendation of a bigger increase in starting salaries to attract more graduates. Entrants to the profession will be paid £14,001 by the end of the year, a rise of 4.88 per cent. Mrs Shephard accepted all

## Tax-cutting Government accused of giving with one hand and taking with the other

the main recommendations in the review body's report, but decided to pay the award in stages to ease the strain on school budgets. "I believe this is a fair settlement which reflects the continuing need to ensure that the profession attracts, retains and motivates individuals of the required quality."

Head teachers said the phasing was outrageous and the overall increase would do nothing to raise morale. Local authorities and governors said many schools would not be able to afford the increase without shedding teaching posts and raising class sizes.

The review body made several recommendations to make teachers' pay more flexible, encouraging governors to reward good performance. The pay spine will be lengthened with the addition of half points between each grade.

From next year, extra payments for heads and deputies will be reviewed against "performance criteria" agreed with governors. The review body did not support Mrs Shephard's suggestion that incentives should be introduced to encourage teachers to take jobs in difficult schools.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said 74

of the 119 local authorities would have less to spend on education next year after paying for the teachers' pay rise, despite budget promises of more money for schools.

"The Government is being dishonest over school funding," he said. "Ministers must now explain how increased class sizes and cuts in teaching posts, books and equipment can be avoided. It is irresponsible for ministers to accept the recommendations of the review body and then to pass the buck to a local level." A time-bomb of teacher shortages was predicted by the Association of Metropolitan



Shephard says the settlement is fair

Authorities. Graham Lane, who chairs the education committee, said: "The pay review body recommended 3.75 per cent with no phasing in an attempt to head off a recruitment crisis and also to improve retention. Instead



Blunkett attack on ministers "dishonesty"

teachers will feel they have got a bad deal which lowers morale, and class sizes will not be able to afford extra staff to deal with rising rolls. The National Union of Teachers accused the Govern-

ment of robbing teachers at the top of the pay scale of £10 a month by phasing in their pay rise. Doug McAvoey, the general secretary, said: "The little that has been given will mean teacher job losses and an inevitable further rise in class sizes to the detriment of children. Instead of leaving schools to struggle to meet the increase the Government should accept responsibility for funding the award in full."

The last time the Government provided cash for the teachers' pay rise was during the run-up to the 1992 general election. Pupil numbers will rise by 86,000 in the new school year, adding to a 6 per cent rise since 1990 when the 439,500 teachers was the same as the current figure. Nigel De Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and

Union of Women Teachers, said: "Only last November, Chancellor Kenneth Clarke was busy handing out tax concessions. Today we are told the Government cannot afford to pay its salary bill on-time. Another case of giving with one hand and taking back with the other."

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers told the review body that a rise of at least 7.5 per cent was needed to attract the best graduates. Peter Smith, the general secretary, predicted further redundancies among teachers because of the Government's refusal to fund the award.

The Association of County Councils said the award would mean authorities having to find an extra £275 million over the £100-million they were already spending above the budget limits.

**ENGLAND HAVE WON THE WORLD CUP! THE TV LICENCE FEE IS ONLY £5!**

**AND THE LIKELY LADS, STEPTOE & SON AND FRANKIE HOWERD ARE ON TV**

**3 COMEDY CLASSICS FROM 1966** with original news stories from the year's major events

Other 'The Golden Years of Comedy' titles:  
 1971 featuring Morecambe and Wise.  
 The Liver Birds and Dad's Army.  
 1975 featuring Porridge, Sykes and The Two Ronnies

**BBC VIDEO**



Jailed activist was denied access to a solicitor

# Republican wins £15,000 from human rights court

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING republican activist, who was jailed for eight years for his part in helping to falsely imprison an RUC informer, was awarded £15,000 costs by European Union human rights judges yesterday.

The judges ruled that John Murray's human rights were violated because he was refused access to a solicitor while being questioned about abetting the detention of an IRA volunteer who had turned informer. The ruling is likely to lead to changes in legal practice in Northern Ireland, where exclusion of solicitors from interviews is allowed.

But the European Court of Human Rights found in favour of curbs on the right to silence operating in Northern Ireland. They voted by 14 to five against Murray's claim that his right to a fair hearing

had been infringed because the trial judge had drawn an "adverse inference" from Murray's silence during questioning and at the trial.

The decision to award costs to Murray, who played a dominant role in the incident, was criticised by Unionist MPs, who said it was "heretofore of credibility".

Murray, 44, from Cresslough Park, West Belfast, was jailed in 1991 after being convicted of aiding and abetting the false imprisonment of Sandy Lynch, an RUC informer.

The court rejected Murray's claim for compensation and cut his original claim for £36,000 costs by more than half after an appeal by lawyers representing the Government. The judges ruled by 12

votes to seven that the absence of Murray's solicitor from 12 interviews infringed his right to defence, which is safeguarded by the European Human Rights Convention.

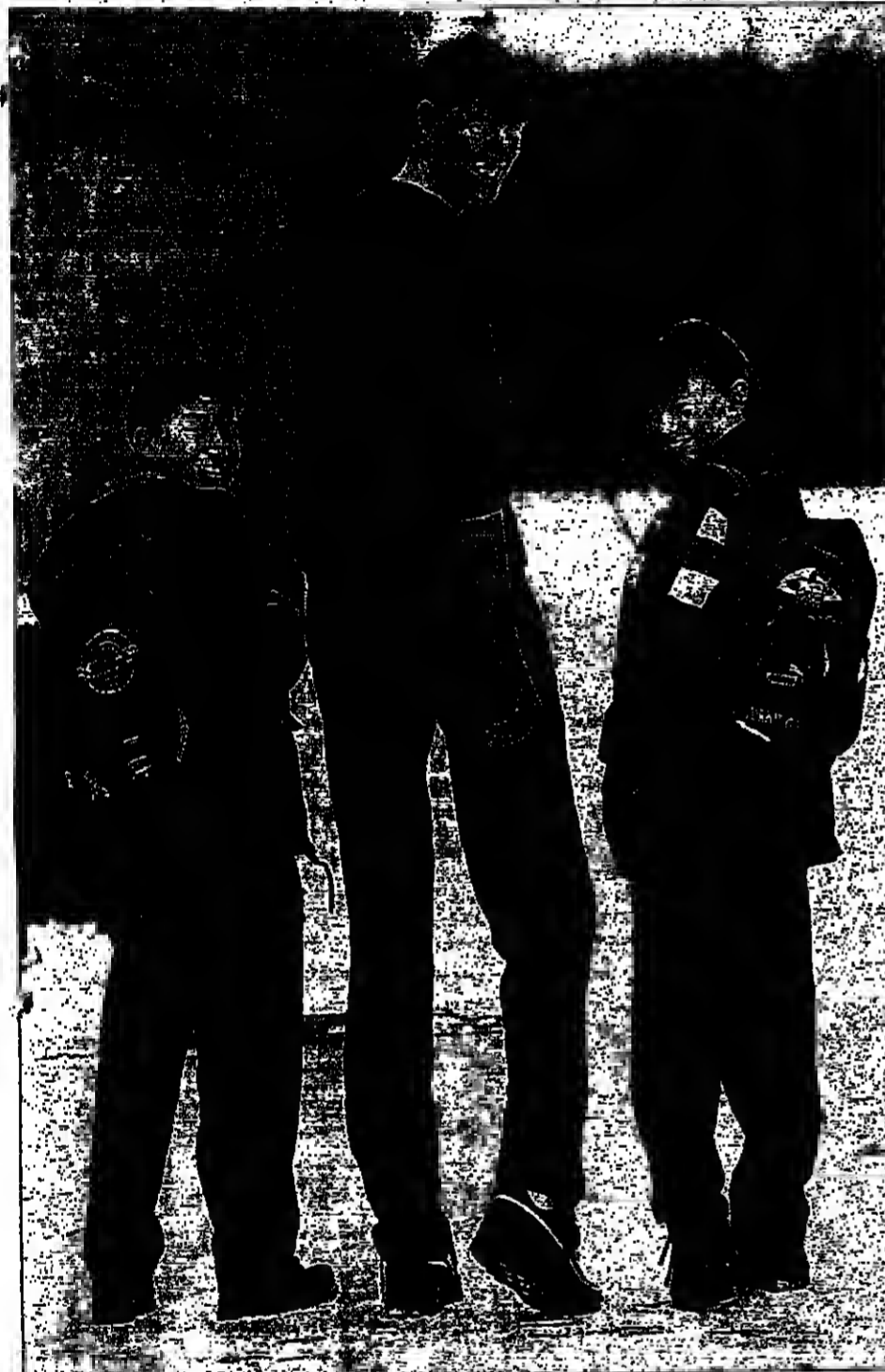
Murray, who destroyed a tape recording of Mr Lynch's confession when police surrounded a house where he had been interrogated, stayed silent through all his police interviews. The judges said that the right to silence was at the heart of fair procedure under the Human Rights Convention. The question of whether those rights were breached by drawing "adverse inferences" from an accused's silence depended on the circumstances of each case.

"In the court's view, having regard to the weight of the evidence against the applicant, the drawing of inferences from his refusal at arrest, during police questioning and at trial to provide an explanation for his presence at the house was a matter of common sense and could not be regarded as unfair or unreasonable in the circumstances."

But the judgment said that, because Murray chose to be silent, it was all the more important that he should have had access to a solicitor. "To deny access to a lawyer for the first 48 hours of police questioning, in a situation where the rights of the defence may well be irretrievably prejudiced is - whatever the justification for such denial - incompatible with the rights of the accused," it said.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, said: "This decision will mean that suspects interrogated under the terrorist legislation will no longer be prevented from seeing their lawyers for the first two days of their detention."

Law Report, page 28



Neil Fingleton with two classmates, Stephen Robinson, left, and Bill Nixon

## Basketball boy aims high

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A 7ft 1in schoolboy who eats six Shredded Wheat for breakfast is aiming for a basketball career in America after being called up by Britain's national under-16 squad.

Neil Fingleton, 15, of Gosport, Durham, is still growing but already he can touch a 10ft basketball rim from a standing position. He took up the game only 15

months ago with the adult Stockton, Mohawks' team after a member spotted him playing football.

His height causes problems buying clothes and sports shoes - he takes size 13 - but he hopes it will be his passport to the NBA league in America. He said: "Obviously height is a great advantage but you still have to have good control."

Neil comes from a tall family - his mother, Chris-

tine, a cook, is 6ft, and father, Mike, a fitter, is 6ft 1in. However to achieve his dream he must add at least two stone to his 14st frame.

A nutritionist has drawn up a 4,000 calories a day diet, including four pints of milk. Neil's food bill is £50 a week. Tony Hanson, the Mohawk coach and a former NBA player, said: "I'm sure the schools and colleges in the US are going to be interested."

## Diplomats used dead girl's cash

The family of a girl killed by a car during a school trip to France condemned Foreign Office officials who took cash from her bag to pay for the return of her effects.

A letter told the parents of Lindsey Rockcliffe, 13, in Leeds: "The sum of £2.10 has been deducted to cover postage by recorded delivery."

The Foreign Office said: "We quite understand the family's reaction. However, this procedure is normal."

## Driver fined £1

Police condemned magistrates at Aldershot for fining a drink-driver £1. Christopher Walker, of Crowthorne, Buckinghamshire, was banned from driving for one year. He was limping over the 80mg limit.

## Ferry port closed

Ferry services were disrupted after striking French workers closed the port of Calais. Ferries from Dover to Calais were diverted to Zeebrugge, adding 2½ hours to the journey.

## Traffic jam

Traffic wardens have been wrongly booking cars in Bideford, Devon, unaware that a two-hour limit was scrapped in 1986. Police are offering refunds to proven victims.

## Cycle path prize

The 140-mile Sea to Sea cycle path across northern England has won the Global British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Award. It is the first British entry to win the prize, set up six years ago.

## Homes sell faster

The average time taken to sell a house has fallen from 22 weeks to 21 in the past year, according to the Black Horse estate agents. The North West takes longest (30 weeks) and the South East shortest (13).

## Woman rescued

A 75-year-old woman was rescued by a lifeboatman and his son after being thrown into the harbour in Broadstairs, Kent, when her battery-operated wheelchair went out of control.

## Alcoholic lemonades renamed

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE makers of carbonated alcoholic drinks are to rename them in advance of publication of a voluntary code of practice intended to avoid confusion between alcoholic drinks and those intended for children.

Bass said yesterday that it would abbreviate the name Hooper's Hoop Alcoholic Lemonade to Alcoholic Lemon. Merrydown, producer of Two Dogs Alcoholic Lemonade, is to rename the drink Two Dogs Alcoholic Lemon Brew. The changes are to be made as soon as present stocks are exhausted.

Whitbread has abandoned plans to launch alcoholic carbonates under the names of Lemonade Bomb and Cream Soda Blast. Instead, the drinks, containing as much alcohol as strong lagers, will be called Lemon Jag and Vanilla Heist.

## Councils to crack down on roadside polluters

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

DRIVERS who run their engines while parked at the roadside will be fined under anti-pollution powers being given to local authorities. The Department of Transport announced yesterday that it was backing councils' calls for more weapons in the war against dirty vehicles.

Steven Norris, the Transport Minister, said council staff would also be given the right to fine drivers or ban vehicles if they failed roadside emissions tests. It is hoped that increasing councils' powers will lead to greater success in the fight against grossly polluting lorries, taxis, cars and coaches.

Local authorities had also asked to be allowed to stop vehicles as well as test and penalise them, but were opposed by groups such as the Automobile Association which argued that only police officers

had the training for such a task. The view was endorsed by the Home Office and has been accepted by transport ministers.

Mr Norris said: "These measures are part of our commitment to improving local air quality. This is an important move forward, allowing local authorities to take action where it is most necessary. There is no reason why a selfish minority of vehicle owners should allow their vehicles to pollute our streets."

He said it was hoped to bring in the new regulations later this year after trials in pilot areas. A spokesman for the department said the new powers would take into account the need for some commercial vehicles with frozen or chilled foods to keep their engines running.

Tourist coaches would have to be dealt with sensitively. "If

it is a hot day and a coach has elderly passengers on board, then they might need to run the air conditioning," he said.

The new pollution measures coincide with an Environment Department announcement that more than 80 local authorities, including all those in London, are to pilot air quality initiatives. The councils will be asked to outline their plans to curb air pollution incidents that break national and European rules.

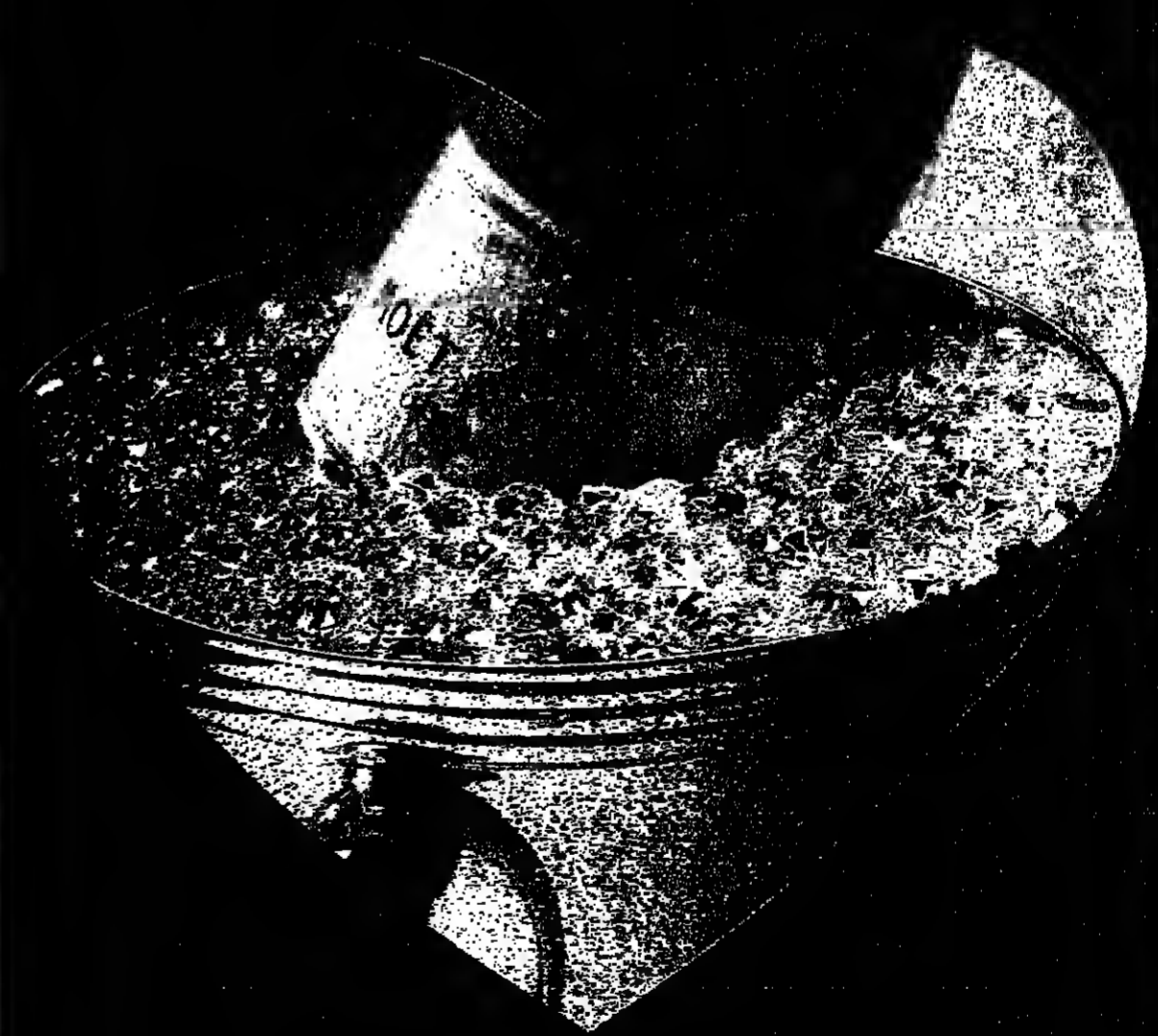
A spokesman for the department said it would be looking for long-term solutions, such as pedestrianisation schemes. Several will be selected and given funding to carry improvements forward to see whether their action plans are workable.

In 1997, all local authorities will be required to meet new air pollution rules under the Environment Act 1995.

*"If you give her something sparkling this Valentine's, so will we."*

One romantic gesture deserves another. Surprise your Valentine with one of our precious diamonds over £350, and we'll enter into the spirit with a free half bottle of Moët & Chandon in a special presentation box.\* Valentine's Day is only next Wednesday - so why not pop in this weekend?

\*This offer is available while stocks last, and is limited to one gift per customer.



# Ernest Jones

## The Diamond and Watch specialist

Also available at Leslie Davis stores.

Interest-free credit available subject to status and payment of a deposit.

For information on your nearest store, phone 0181-905 9000.

Visit helps to erase ugly memories of papal mission to war-torn region in 1983

Thousands flock to welcome Pope on Latin America tour

By DAVID ADAMS IN CARACAS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Pope's Latin American tour, which ends in Venezuela at the weekend, is helping to erase ugly memories of his first visit to the region in 1983, when Central America was torn by civil wars.

Governments and revolutionaries were locked in power struggles fanned by the Cold War. In Nicaragua, the Sandinista Government tried to embarrass the Pope, shouting him down at an outdoor rally. In Guatemala, a military dictator sent six people to the firing squad just before the Pope's arrival.

This week, however, the pontiff has been met by large and friendly crowds in Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. The armed conflicts that raged in Central America have been extinguished in all but Guatemala.

The region is now battling crime, poverty and social injustice, while the radicalism that the Pope encountered on his last visit has been overtaken by a wave of conservatism.

Celebrating Mass before 150,000 worshippers in Managua, the Pope expressed happiness at changes that have brought peace to Nicaragua, but alluded to the Sandinista Government's reign as a "long, dark night". The left-wing Sandinistas ruled from 1979 until losing elections to President Chamorro in 1990.

The Pope told worshippers that during his 1983 trip "I could not really meet the people. Since then, many things have changed".

For their part, the Sandinistas apologised for their behaviour in 1983. The former President, Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinista Front, took out full-page advertisements in two newspapers and rented billboards to welcome the pontiff.

President Chamorro's term ends after an October election this year and she is not allowed to run again. The opposition Sandinistas remain the largest and best organised of Nicaragua's 30 political parties.

"Thanks to divine providence, peace has returned to your country," the Pope told the crowds who attended the Mass. "The inhabitants of Nicaragua can now enjoy an authentic religious freedom."

As he departed, the Pope challenged the Managua Government and foreign donors to attack poverty, ignorance and joblessness in one of the continent's poorest nations.

President Chamorro, wearing a cross with her long white dress, escorted the pontiff hand-in-hand. A devout Catholic, she called the Pope's visit a dream come true.

It was El Salvador's turn to welcome the Pope yesterday. Hours before dawn, tens of thousands of pilgrims began streaming into a field in the capital for an open-air Mass.

"Pope John Paul II, we love you," people chanted as the Pope landed at a military airport east of the capital. The flags of El Salvador and the Vatican flew from the cockpit.

There was a heavy police and military presence throughout San Salvador, and crowds gathered along the Pope's six-mile route from the airport. The pontiff was greeted by President Calderon Sol, who knelt to kiss his hand as a military band played.

Last April the Vatican named the conservative Fernando Sienz Lacalle as Archbishop of San Salvador.

His appointment marks a radical shift from his predecessors who ministered during the country's decade-long civil war. The most notable of those was Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, whose name was associated with liberation theology, the radical grassroots Catholic church movement that was popular in the 1980s.

The archbishop was murdered by a right-wing death squad in 1980 after speaking out against the country's poverty and social injustice.

But Monsignor Sienz Lacalle shares the Pope's dislike for controversial liberation theology, calling it a "reading of the gospel with a Marxist leaning".

He has said that such a religious philosophy has no place in El Salvador.



The Pope, making his second visit to Nicaragua, celebrates Mass in Managua with thousands of worshippers

Succession debate resumes in Rome

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME



Cardinal Arinze: kindles hope of Third World Pope

THE sight of the Pope obviously suffering in the heat of Central America in his heavy vestments has added to concern in Rome over his deteriorating health.

It emerged yesterday that the Pope undertook the trip — his 69th since being enthroned — against the advice of Vatican doctors, who were anxious about the debilitating effect of such a gruelling journey on the increasingly frail pontiff. At Christmas the

Pope suffered an attack of nausea during his seasonal message and faltered to a stop. At 75 the Pope is no longer the athletic figure who took over with such vigour 17 years ago, joking that he was not only the first Polish Pope but also the first one who could ski.

He now looks exhausted and moves slowly and stiffly, in part due to illness and in part to the continuing effects of the 1981 assassination attempt. In the Pope's absence, speculation has again risen over the papal succession, with attention focusing on the 68-year-

old Archbishop of Milan, Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini. Hopes for a Third World Pope rest on Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria, 63.

Vatican sources point out that fears for the Pope's health when he toured Asia and Australia last year proved to be unfounded. The Pope intends to visit Slovenia in May, when he will turn 76. He also plans to visit Berlin, Budapest and Paris this year; and has said that he hopes to climb Mount Sinai together with Jewish and Muslim leaders to greet the millennium.

Briton is seized in Colombia

Bogota: Left-wing rebels are believed to be holding a Briton, a Dane and a German, seized on a highway northwest of Colombia's capital.

Police last night named the Briton as Philip Hallen. They blamed the National Liberation Army guerrillas for abducting the men at a makeshift roadblock across a remote stretch of the road that links Bogota with the north-west city of Medellin. The guerrilla group, founded by radical Roman Catholic priests in 1966, specialises in kidnapping. (Reuters)

Birthrate up in France

Paris: Metropolitan France's population reached 58.3 million at the end of 1995, a year in which there was a 2.5 per cent increase in the birthrate after a three-year decline. In all, 529,000 people died and 729,000 were born, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies. The average fertility rate was 1.7 children per woman of child-bearing age, slightly higher than the 1.65 of the two previous years.

Broadcaster shot in throat

Phnom Penh: Ek Moongkol, 40, a popular announcer on Cambodia's FM Radio 90, was shot in the throat after he left the station. The attack is believed to be politically motivated. The station belongs to Prince Ranariddh, the First Prime Minister. Human rights groups have accused the Government of trying to intimidate the press. (AP)

East Timorese seek asylum

Jakarta: Nine East Timorese, including two women, asked for political protection from Australia hours after entering its Jakarta embassy, apparently seeking asylum. An embassy spokesman said the nine would be staying overnight while discussions continued. (Reuters)

Israeli banks attacked over £3bn loans in kibbutz rescue package

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

TWO Israeli Cabinet Ministers yesterday demanded an inquiry into allegations that in recent years banks overcharged many of the country's 270 kibbutzim for loans, which the central bank estimates to be worth £3.26 billion.

Reports said that without the financing, at least 100 of the

communes would have gone into liquidation. The vast sum involved forced the central bank to deny a report in *Yedioth Ahronot* which claimed that "correcting the mistakes will put the banks' stability in danger". Share prices of banks were hit for the second day.

Bank Leumi, one of the main institutions involved in bailing out the kibbutzim in a joint rescue package reached last year with the

Labour Government, angrily denied the allegations. The United Kibbutz Movement, one of the two main kibbutz groupings, rejected calls to have its debt mountain re-examined; it said any possible bank error would be smaller than the debt-forgiveness package.

The financial rescue plan, the rudiments of which are now coming under scrutiny, was launched as the socialist ideology of the

kibbutz was giving way to privatisation and attempts to increase individual freedoms. Many members were also deserting the kibbutz for life on the outside.

Bank Leumi alleges that the issue is being manipulated by the cash-strapped kibbutzim to squeeze more money out of a Labour Government in the run-up to an election. The daily *Maariv*, in criticising the controversial rescue

package, said it was "a desperate attempt to preserve a socialist way of life in a world where socialism has become, at best, a bad joke."

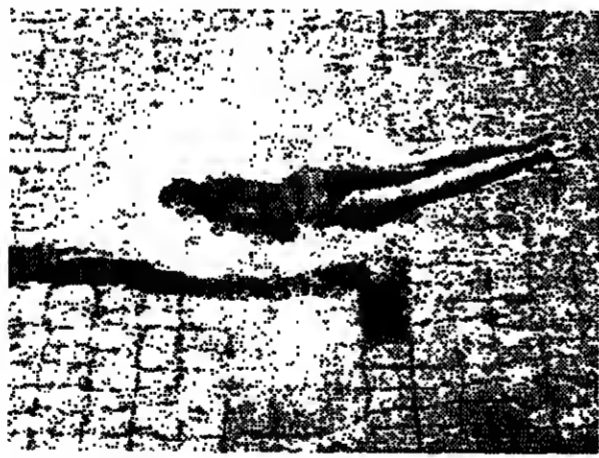
The paper argued that "the State of Israel has no security, economic or social interest in ensuring the artificial existence of those kibbutzim whose time has passed."

It was only in 1992 that it dawned on most Israelis that the socialist ideals of the kibbutz movement,

first set up on the banks of the River Jordan in 1906, were having to give way to capitalist realities. Then Ein Zivan, a financially strapped kibbutz on the Golan Heights, raised its communal dining hall and paid wages according to the value of work performed. This infuriated some of the pioneers.

Many analysts back the changes. One member of Ein Zivan said: "I do not want to be a museum."

When business travel winds you up, unwind at a Forte Posthouse



You're away on business and you've had meetings all day, what you need now is somewhere to unwind completely. You need a Forte Posthouse!

Facilities include swimming pools and fitness clubs at many hotels; a mini bar and movies in all bedrooms; room service plus restaurants and bars that are as welcoming as they are relaxing.

On top of that you'll enjoy free car parking, interactive TV with View Plus, and express check-out, so you can start the new day relaxed and refreshed.

TO BOOK CALL US FREE ON

0800 40 40 40

OR CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

RELAX AT ONE OF 65 LOCATIONS FROM

£59

FORTE Posthouse

OVER 50 HOTELS AT £59 PER ROOM, PER NIGHT, PRIME LOCATIONS AT £69.

Dixons ORANGE PHONE FOR UNDER £30



PLUS

FREE CINEMA TICKETS FOR A YEAR

CONNECT TO TALK 60 OR ABOVE AND GET AN UNLIMITED ACCESS PASS TO ANY UCI CINEMA

MOTOROLA ORANGE MRI

- 180 name/number memory (inc. SIM card memory)
• 2-line LCD display for clear display of number called
• Up to 60 minutes talk time/11 hours standby
• Call divert, call barring, call waiting and call hold
Was £99.99, £49.99

orange

SAVE £70

SALE PRICE £29.99

Dixons SALE

345 HIGH STREET BRANCHES NATIONWIDE. TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH



ARTS 29-31  
Dance of death:  
Aids inspires a  
bold new ballet



EDUCATION 33  
Have independent  
schools anything to  
fear from Labour?



SPORT 35-40  
The Don gives a  
few pointers to  
England women

TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
Pages 38,39

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9 1996

HK

## BT head rejects network concept

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

HOPES that British Telecom might provide a broad-band communications network receded further yesterday. Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's new chief executive, conceded that he did not personally think there would be a single national information superhighway.

The idea of a single fibre-optic network to every household is wrong, he said. Instead, he envisaged a growing patchwork of links between different systems that would evolve at different paces in different places, using mixed technology, possibly including radio and satellites.

The Labour Party has watered down a deal to allow BT earlier access to the entertainment market to justify investment in a superhighway and connect schools, hospitals and libraries free. Sir Peter said BT would still accelerate access to a fibre-optic network for schools and possibly hospitals.

In the third quarter to December 31, BT's pre-tax profits rose 26 per cent to £829 million. Nine-month profits were up 13 per cent to £2.44 billion on turnover up 3.4 per cent to £10.7 billion.

The gain stemmed almost entirely from the timing of redundancy charges. They took £60 million in the quarter against £217 million a year earlier.

Tempus, page 24

# United and MAI to merge in £2.9bn deal

By ERIC ROBYN

THE consolidation of Britain's media industry gathered pace yesterday when United News & Media, the newspaper publisher, and MAI, the television and financial services group, announced a merger that will create an international group with businesses ranging from the *Daily Express* to NCP, the opinion poll group.

The proposed merger, which will create a company with a market capitalisation of £2.9 billion and turnover of £1.9 billion, came the day after United shares rose 29p to 624p on high volume. The London Stock Exchange is examining the pre-announcement trading to determine if there were any unusual share price movements.

Lord Hollick, 51, the managing director of MAI, and Lord Stevens of Lidgate, 59, the chairman of United, called the merger a marriage of equals.

Unlikely bedfellows ..... 6  
Pennington ..... 23  
Stock market ..... 24  
Global race ..... 25

The companies are to come together through a tax-free share swap, which offers no premium to shareholders. A holder of 100 MAI shares will receive 64 United shares, while the holder of 1,000 MAI convertible preference shares will receive 241 United shares. United shares rose 29p to 624p. MAI was up 69p to 448p.

United shareholders will own 50.7 per cent of the new group while MAI shareholders will own 49.3 per cent. It seems that MAI, however, will have overall management control. Lord Hollick is to become chief executive of the group, which has not yet been named. Sir James McKinnon, the chairman of MAI and former head of Ofgas, the gas regulator, is to become deputy chairman. Lord Stevens will be chairman, a position he described as non-executive but full-time.

Both companies said they did not expect a competing bid



Lord Hollick and Lord Stevens yesterday. Both said they did not expect a rival bid to thwart their proposed merger

to spoil the deal. There were rumours that Carlton Communications, the largest ITV company, would bid for United. Carlton would not comment and its shares fell 32p to 1,022p on the speculation.

The merger was designed to take advantage of the Government's plans to reduce cross-media ownership restrictions. The Broadcasting Bill will allow ITV companies to hold as many ITV licences as they want as long as they do not capture more than 15 per cent

of the total audience. Similarly, newspaper companies with less than 20 per cent of the total national newspaper circulation will be able to buy ITV companies.

The merged company will have two main businesses. The consumer side will include MAI's Meridian, Anglia and Channel 5 interests plus United's national and regional newspapers. It will also have United's advertising publications, including *Exchange & Mart* and *Dalton's Weekly*.

## Debt cap expected for all names

By SARAH BAGNALL

EVERY one of the 32,000 Lloyd's of London names is expected to have their debt to the insurance market capped at £100,000, according to Lloyd's sources.

The upper limit on a name's liability is struck, however, after deducting any payment or debt write-off the name will receive under Lloyd's ambitious £2.8 billion reconstruction and renewal plan. The limit is calculated after any necessary draw down on a name's funds at Lloyd's, which for many is in the form of bank guarantees against their homes.

Lloyd's is holding back £100 million of the £2.8 billion to help names who cannot afford to pay their final liability bill and is working on a phased payment scheme.

The R&R plan, aimed at resolving the mass of legal actions taken by thousands of names and at providing them with an affordable exit from the insurance market, is in its final stages. The exit route is via Equitas, a reinsurance company being set up to take over names' liabilities in return for a payment.

Of the package, £2 billion will be used to write off names' debts — in cases when they cannot afford to pay them — while the remaining £800 million is to compensate names for their losses.

On Wednesday the Ridley Committee, chaired by Sir Adam Ridley, reported to the Lloyd's ruling council its methodology for dividing the £2 billion of debt write-offs and £800 million between the different classes of names.

Lloyd's plans to send the committee's conclusions to names next week. This will be followed next month by statements from Lloyd's "indicating" each name's share of the £2.8 billion as well as their Equitas bill. Calls for an investigation to be launched into Lloyd's were made yesterday in the House of Lords. Lord Marlesford said he was a victim of the losses incurred at Lloyd's and questioned whether it had been "wholly frank" with the DTI about assets it had to cover insolvencies.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3708.4	(-17.7)
Yield	3.85%	
FT-SE All share	1828.35	(-6.09)
Nikkei	21118.30	(+174.81)
New York		
Dow Jones	9484.54	(-7.58)
S&P Composite	643.71	(-0.22)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	100 1/8%	(100 1/8%)
Yield	5.18%	(5.15%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/4%	(10 1/4%)
3-mth Euro	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
STERLING		
New York	1.5375	(1.5375)
London		
DM	1.6369	(1.6369)
DM	2.2662	(2.2715)
FF	7.7952	(7.8002)
SF	1.8529	(1.8530)
Yen	164.21	(162.67)
\$ Index	84.3	(84.4)
Tokyo close Yen	106.15	
MONTHLY SALES CHG		
Export 15-day (Apr)	£16.15	(\$16.10)
GOLD		
London close	\$468.05	(\$412.75)

## Second look at funding of investor scheme

By CAROLINE MERRILL

THE Personal Investment Authority is reviewing the funding of the investors Compensation Scheme for the second time in six months. It has already drawn up plans to change substantially the funding of the ICS, which has been dogged by controversy over the past few years. This latest consultation paper is a further attempt to try to ensure the long-term viability of the scheme.

The ICS was set up by the Government to protect investing members of the public against the failure or fraud of a particular investment company. Most firms declared in default of the ICS have been independent financial advisers. The structure of the scheme meant that the remaining IFAs and the companies that transacted most of their business through IFAs had to pay the compensation bill. The result was that good firms ended up paying for the actions of the bad.

## Standard Life stance hurts Farnell's £1.8bn bid plan

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

FARNELL, the electronics distribution company, yesterday suffered a setback in its £1.8 billion bid to buy Premier Industrial, the US-based company, when Standard Life, one of its main institutional shareholders, revealed it would not support the proposals.

The Premier purchase has aroused controversy since it was announced last month because it would result in Farnell more than doubling its size and lead to a big increase in the company's debt pile.

Graham Wood, head of UK equities at Standard Life, justified the decision on the grounds that the fund management group believes the premium is too high, that the deal would dilute earnings and that Farnell will be encumbered with £430 million worth of

debt. But the company's unusual decision to publicise its position, angered Howard Foulson, chairman of Farnell. Mr Foulson said: "We are very disappointed that Standard Life has rather jumped the gun. We only had a short meeting with Standard Life in which to put our case."

But Mr Foulson remained confident that the deal would still be approved, stating that he believed the overwhelming majority of shareholders still supported the deal.

Guy Jubb, corporate governance manager at Standard Life, defended the decision to go public, ahead of the extraordinary general meeting next week. He said: "We feel it is right that we make our position clear so other shareholders

can see what we are doing. The Premier deal has created a lot of interest in the media." He added that Standard Life did not want to sell its stake in Farnell although a sale remained the ultimate sanction.

But Standard Life's views appeared not to be shared by other big shareholders such as Mercury Asset Management, who announced yesterday that it had increased its stake in the company from 12.1 per cent to 13 per cent.

Another large shareholder, Scottish Widows, which holds 5.3 per cent, said it was backing the deal.

Farnell's share price slipped back 3p to 642p.

Pennington, page 25  
Funding their voice, page 25

## Amstrad confident despite losses

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

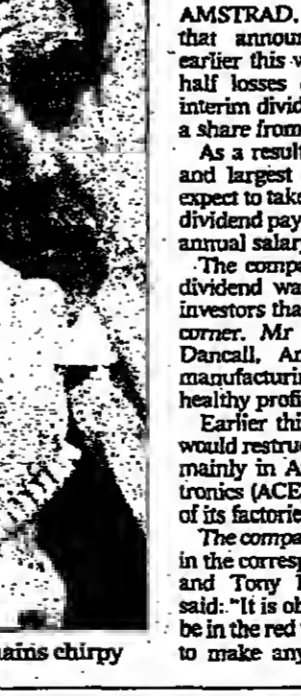
AMSTRAD, the electronics group that announced 150 redundancies earlier this week, has disclosed first-half losses of £5.4 million. But the interim dividend is increased to 1.25p a share from 1p.

As a result, Alan Sugar, chairman and largest single shareholder, can expect to take home about £510,000 in dividend payments. He is also paid an annual salary of £195,000.

The company said the increase in dividend was meant as a signal to investors that Amstrad is turning the corner. Mr Sugar said he expects Dancall, Amstrad's mobile phone manufacturing subsidiary, to make a healthy profit in the second half.

Earlier this week, Amstrad said it would restructure, cut its workforce — mainly in Amstrad Consumer Electronics (ACE) — by 150 and close one of its factories, costing it £4 million.

The company made a £25,000 profit in the corresponding period last year, and Tony Dean, finance director, said: "It is obviously disappointing to be in the red this half. We don't expect to make any further provisions for



Alan Sugar, chairman, remains chirpy

restructuring, and we hope to see some strength now."

Viglen International, which sells computers in the professional market, was profitable in the six months to December 31, while Dancall, bought by Amstrad in 1993, had made a "respectable profit" in December as it overcame a delay of four months in meeting production levels. Mr Sugar said that the full-year results should, therefore, be encouraging.

Analysts cut their full-year profit forecasts from between £15 million and £20 million to nearer £10 million. However, the roster picture for the second half and next year pushed the share price higher, rising 18p to 201p.

"The results weren't very good, but there is plenty of room for them to grow again," said Andrew Bryant, analyst with NatWest Securities. "ACE should be back in profit in 1997, the Viglen market is growing and there is confidence that Dancall could become a real competitor to the likes of Nokia and Ericsson."

Tempus, page 24

The Ponte Vecchio is where you'll find all the traditional goldsmiths, silversmiths and antique dealers. Fly non-stop to Florence.

Meridiana  
Non-Stop to Florence

For information and booking see your travel agent or phone Meridiana on 0171/839-2222.

London ✈ Firenze

Business start-ups increase

The number of businesses in the UK reached 3.7 million in 1995, the highest level for more than four years. According to Barclays Bank the total business stock increased 1.6 per cent over 1994.

The bank's figures show that 448,000 sole occupation businesses started up in 1995, compared with 430,000 in 1994, an increase of four per cent. Mainstream business closures rose two per cent year-on-year to 440,000. The main growth was in individuals setting up in self-employment on top of full-time occupation.

TI GROUP, through its Bundy Asia Pacific joint venture, is to invest \$3 million in a new factory in China to supply components for a new car plant set up by Citroën, the French company, in Wuhan, Hubei province, where it is to produce its ZX model.

The Bank of France yesterday cut its key intervention rate, which sets the floor for money market interest rates, to 3.90 per cent from 4.05 per cent. The five-to-ten day lending rate was unchanged at 5.60 per cent.

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank, Buy, and Sell rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and USA.

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Latest salvos fired in the battle over single currency

Business leaders lambaste EMU

By PATRICIA TEHAN

SOME of the UK's most senior business leaders have launched a scathing attack on European monetary union, arguing it would bring higher interest rates and unemployment and harm business competitiveness.

The criticism came from Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, Sir John Hoskyns, chairman of Burton, Sir Alick Rankin, chairman of Scottish & Newcastle, Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of Charter, Sir Emmanuel Kaye,

chairman of Kaye Enterprises, Stanislas Yassukovich, chairman of the City Research project, and Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the Institute of Directors. Their stance against economic and monetary union (EMU) was in stark contrast to the sentiments expressed by Dr Ronaldo Schmitz, chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, yesterday. He said that stopping the introduction of EMU would have disastrous implications for the single market and for Europe's position in the world. The

business leaders were writing in Business Agenda, a publication by the centre-right European Research Group. Sir Stanley said business "must now gird its loins and fight with eerie weapon... against those who seek to sell out the UK to a federal Europe". Sir John questioned whether the single currency was conceivable without European unification, while Sir Alick said that to join EMU "we must meet tough convergence criteria, pay up a huge entrance fee and put on a monetary corset". There is

growing consensus among British bankers that the deadline for the introduction of a single currency in 1998 should be delayed until economic criteria are in place. On Monday Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said proceeding too quickly towards a single currency could cause serious political tensions. But at the German-British Chamber of Commerce yesterday, Dr Schmitz said: "Stopping the EMU train would spell disaster. It would mean running the risk of the hard core

of the European Monetary System breaking apart." This, he said, would mean that "continental Europe would fall back into recurring competitive devaluations, with negative repercussions for the development of the single market as a whole". Dr Schmitz said: "I would like to see the UK exert a much greater influence over the design of the EU economic framework". If sterling did not rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism by spring this year, it would not be eligible for EMU in 1998, he added.

CBI calls on Blair to spell out policies

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders last night said that Britain's economic strengths must not be jeopardised by a Labour government uncommitted to stable economic policies. Although Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, welcomed the shifts in Labour policy towards a more pro-business approach under Tony Blair, the CBI challenged Labour to provide specific details for business on a range of economic policies.

Government ministers were angered when Mr Turner recently advocated a rise in real wages as part of economic growth, and some are sceptical about the CBI's declared policy under Mr Turner of political neutrality in the run-up to a general election, arguing openly that business ought to support the Conservatives. But they will be more satisfied by Mr Turner's clear attempt last night in a speech at a CBI dinner in Manchester to put pressure on Labour to flesh out the bones of its policies on the economy and business. Mr Turner praised the UK's stable macroeconomy, low inflation and flexible labour markets as a "sound basis for medium-term growth", and in a specific reference to Labour and the election said: "It is

crucial that these advantages are not put at risk." He said: "While the Labour party has made some apparent shifts in policy towards a more pro-business approach, there are key areas where business disagrees with Labour policy." Business was concerned about four specific areas: Inflation: Welcoming Labour's "overall" commitment to low inflation, he said: "Business confidence would increase if Labour committed itself to a specific inflation target." Tax: Labour should set specific targets for the top rate of tax and National Insurance, and clearly stated spending priorities. Social chapter: Emphasising the support of business for the Government's opt-out from the EU social chapter, he said that business "does not want to see it ended. We are very concerned about the Labour party's commitment to do so" — and would be even more so if Labour supported extending qualified majority voting in the EU in this area. Stakeholding: Having launched the word into the political domain, Mr Blair must now clarify it and say what specific policy issues would result from it.



David Southworth, managing director, with John Atkin, finance director, of P&P Group, where profits rose 57 per cent to £12.6 million in the year to November 30. There is a final dividend of 2p, payable on May 11, making a total of 3.15p (2.6p)

Retail sales continue to rise

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

RETAIL sales are still rising, according to figures today from British industry on sales volumes in the high street. The Confederation of British Industry's monthly distributive trades survey shows continuing strong sales growth in January after early sales activity the previous month. The CBI's survey, covering 15,000 outlets in retailing, wholesaling and the motor trades, shows that retail sales have now risen on an annual basis for four successive

months, after a year of uneven volume growth. In January, the balance of retailers reporting an increase in sales volumes — those registering a rise against those recording a fall — stayed at 31 per cent. Annual sales this month are expected to continue to rise, at a slightly higher rate. Trade in the high street in January was above average for the time of year for the second month running, and while stocks were still considered to be more than adequate, retailers expect a slight

run-down in levels this month. Grocers, chemists, and footwear retailers saw the highest rises in sales volumes compared with a year ago, while confectionery, tobacco and newspaper outlets saw their first fall since February 1994. Alastair Eperont, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades panel, says: "Underlying volumes, as measured by the three-monthly annual trend, have been on an upward path since last September."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Mersey Docks shares fall as offer rejected

LIVERPOOL dockworkers have rejected an offer from Mersey Docks & Harbour Company worth £8 million to settle an unofficial dispute that closed part of the port for six weeks last year. The dockers, dismissed last September for refusing to cross a picket line, rejected the offer of £20,000 to £25,000 per employee by 271 votes to 50. A spokesman for the Transport & General Workers' Union said a meeting would be held today to discuss further action. Mersey Docks shares fell 34p to 403p over fears that strikers would seek support from dockers abroad. The dispute cost the company £4 million. Mersey Docks said yesterday that pressure had been put on the dockers to reject the offer. However, the company left open the possibility that employees could still claim their share of the settlement. The strikers were demanding employment for 80 other dockers who were dismissed by a subcontracting company, unconnected with Mersey Docks, which has since gone out of business.

Hanson fall continues

SHARES in Hanson, the Anglo-American diversified industrial conglomerate, fell by 5p to 185p yesterday. At the end of the day 16.32 million shares had been traded. Hanson shares have fallen from 210p since the proposed demerger of the company into four separate units was announced last week, reducing its stock market capitalisation by about £1.29 billion to £9.6 billion. Yesterday Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, said that the rating of the demerged Hanson businesses was likely to suffer.

US phone merger off

THE planned \$25 billion merger between Bell Atlantic and Nynex, two of America's largest telephone companies, has been put off in favour of a more modest joint venture. The new plan is to set up a joint venture in the long distance telephone market which would not bring the companies the same massive cost savings as a merger. The Bell Atlantic/Nynex talks have been prompted by the Telecommunication Bill, signed by President Clinton yesterday, which deregulates the market. It would have been the largest merger in US corporate history, but is proving to be too complex to complete.

Zeneca to buy drug

ZENECA has agreed to acquire Glaxo Wellcome's new migraine treatment. Final terms of the deal are still being negotiated. The drug 311C90 is in Phase III trials, the final clinical test stage before a drug can be filed for registration. The global migraine market is expected to be worth £1.5 billion by the year 2000. Glaxo is divesting the product as part of the conditions laid down by the US Federal Trade Commission when the company took over Wellcome last year. Glaxo said the sale process would not interrupt the drug's clinical trial development.

Westminster HC ahead

WESTMINSTER HEALTH CARE, the nursing home and medical services group, said occupancy rates continued to be under pressure. There were regional variations in performance and the company's development programme is likely to be biased towards the South East. In the half year to November 30, the company lifted pre-tax profits to £3 million from £5.3 million. Earnings were 11.1p a share, rising from 9.9p. The interim dividend is increased to 2.35p a share from 2.1p. In August the company raised £33.7 million through a rights issue.

Advertisement for Eurostar train service. Text includes: 'eurostar NOW The first of 13 trains to the heart of Paris. 19 EUROSTARS departs from Waterloo International at 06.19. A DAY The first of 6 trains TO PARIS AND BRUSSELS. Call for more information. 0990 186 186 LONDON TO THE CENTRE OF PARIS AND BRUSSELS DIRECT.'

Advertisement for DTI seminar. Text includes: 'HAVE YOU HEARD TOO MUCH ABOUT MONEY AND SPORT? WE CERTAINLY HOPE NOT. 2.3 billion Australian dollars will be spent on the Sydney 2000 Olympics even before the flame is lit at the opening ceremony. As a result Australia's GDP is expected to rise by A\$7.3 billion. To make sure British companies get the most out of this trading explosion, the Sydney Olympics UK Business Task Force is organising a unique seminar in London on Thursday, February 15th. Admission is £150. Speakers will include the key decision makers responsible for all Sydney Olympic contracts: the New South Wales Minister for the Olympics and the Director General of the Olympic Co-ordination Authority. Business opportunities are likely to arise in the following sectors: insurance, banking, engineering, construction, facilities and services. TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT OR TO FIND OUT MORE, CALL 0171-215 4875/4932. dti Department of Trade and Industry THE BUSINESS CONNECTION'

Struggli admits will exce



New up E

Bass h gami

□ Their Lordships announce a marriage □ Sparks fly at Farnell □ The perils of remaining mutual

# MAI presents a United front

□ "THE benefits of synergy" like "one careful owner" or "would suit DIY fanatic" is one of those phrases that should ring alarm bells for potential buyers.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines synergy as "the combined effect of drugs, organs, etc, that exceeds the sum of their individual effects". Corporate financiers define synergy as the easiest way they know to separate over-ambitious managements from massive fees.

Lords Stevens and Hollick define synergy, as far as one can tell from yesterday's merger of their respective companies, in two ways. There is the ability to advertise TV stations in newspapers that are within the same holding company, and the corresponding ability to advertise papers on those same TV stations.

Then there is the wrapping up of all the boring but profitable business services within both groups, which tend to miss out on the media attention to the rather sadder TV stations and newspapers, into one operation which can then sell to the same client list. One option is to cross-sell exhibitions, newsletters, market research and specialised business magazines while merging their individual managements into the same team.

On top of these, there are rather less well-defined prospects for expansion as a larger group into electronic publishing and other more rarified areas.

The first thought is that MAI and United are swimming against the prevailing tide in creating a cross-media, whisper it who dares, conglomerate, at a time when Hanson and British Gas, albeit for different reasons, are busy unbundling. But media is probably the only area where the creation of a conglomerate makes sense - why else is the Government so concerned with the rules that allow this?

As part of this marriage, MAI gets its hands on the cash flow from rather more mature media businesses within United such as exhibitions, regional papers, periodicals and so on, with which to expand into who knows where. United gets proven management, in the form of Lord, sorry Clive, Hollick and his team and a semblance of a coherent strategy that has never been available for view since it became apparent the

Express titles could not be sold. Note the departure of Graham Wilson, seen as Lord Stevens' right-hand man in the City. Should Stevens and Hollick even come to blows over policy, the betting must be that the latter will prevail.

MAI will not stop here, and the purchase of yet another ITV franchise-holder, perhaps Yorkshire Tyne-Tees, looks the next step. In this they will be taking part in this year's expected carve-up of the ITV map - in competition with Carlton, the chosen buyer of the Express titles until Michael Green lost patience with Lord Stevens.

## Some questions for Standard Life

□ WHAT on earth is going on at Farnell, a solid and respectable distributor of all sorts of useful electronic bits and bobs that would not normally trouble the scorer in the great corporate governance handicap?

### PENNINGTON



Two weeks ago Farnell announced a £1.8 billion purchase of an equally uncharismatic but much bigger US business. Part of the deal, ambitious but put together by a team whose record suggested they were ready for such a challenge, was a £350 million rights issue.

Before such an issue can be launched, it is pre-marketed. This involves a trapeze around the biggest institutional holders, and Farnell has at least seven with two per cent or more including Standard Life, to see if they will back the move and underwrite the issue. Just what took place between

Farnell and the institutions is rightly shrouded in secrecy, but there were precious few squawks from any of the underwriting fees being courted. The deal caused some concern among some large shareholders at the size of the step planned, and the management set out to allay this with, to date, some 60 presentations. But Standard Life was apparently not one of those who expressed such concern.

Now the Scottish institution has taken the unprecedented step of saying it will oppose the deal at next week's extraordinary meeting, even if other institutions with much bigger stakes look like supporting it.

Four questions should be put to Standard Life. Is this, and the weekend assault against Michael Green's salary, just a high-profile public relations exercise, hatched to the fashionable corporate governance bandwagon? Did you initially agree to support the rights? If so, why the subsequent change of heart? And has all of this anything to

do with your wish, frustrated when you were made an insider ahead of the deal, to take profits on some of your stake in Farnell?

## Britannia walks a fine line

□ THE first building society to announce a mutuality benefits package for members was the National & Provincial. Within months, the society fell victim to the predatory attentions of the Abbey National.

This awful memory does not seem to haunt those societies who have announced similar loyalty schemes since designed to prove their commitment to mutuality. The latest is the Britannia, which has been working on the project since last summer. In the interim the Yorkshire and the Bradford & Bingley have produced schemes to give value to members in the shape of lower mortgage rates and competitive savings deals. Both were against paying divi-

dends, as such payouts depend on future profits. They argued that, if margins were squeezed, the distribution to members would be put in jeopardy.

The Britannia, however, seems set to follow the dividend route, believing that this is the way to persuade its members to buy even more of its products. But there is no guarantee that they will remain true. Aspiring borrowers may still spurn the Britannia if it cannot match the rates available elsewhere.

The Britannia believes that it is acting to safeguard its independence by depleting its reserves. A miscalculation about how much it will pay and in what form could still be fatal.

## The real alternative

□ DISTURBING signs that arch-dry Peter Lilley is in danger of going native at the Department of Social Security. Defending job cuts at the DSS, he told the Today programme that "the alternative obviously is to take the money away from benefits". A telling slip, Mr Lilley. Individual benefits are fixed, although the total bill may be rising. So you are required to make cuts because the alternative is taking more money off the taxpayer.

# Struggling Apple admits Q2 loss will exceed \$69m

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

APPLE Computer, the struggling American personal computer group, expects to incur a bigger loss in the second quarter of its financial year than the \$69 million loss it reported for the first quarter.

Gilbert Amelio, the new chief executive, also said that the company had pulled out of talks with all potential bidders.

The forecast loss is part of a new publicity offensive by the company to clear the decks after a senior management shake-up last week.

Apple is attempting to persuade customers and the stock market that it is still in control of its own destiny after several months of disastrous trading figures, intense takeover speculation, and the departure of Michael Spindler as chief executive a week ago.

Mr Amelio said that the second-quarter loss would be partly the result of further essential restructuring costs

within the company. He said that in spite of the bad financial results, the foundations of Apple's business were sound and that steps the company was taking to turn itself round in the next few months would boost profitability. The company is scheduled to report its second-quarter results in April.

Mr Amelio's denial that



Amelio: pulled out of talks

Apple was in bid talks with any other company appeared to scotch rumours of an imminent takeover by Sun Microsystems with whom Apple has been negotiating recently.

Mr Amelio said that the persistent takeover rumours had damaged Apple's performance and its share price, which is now about \$28, down from \$30 a few months ago.

The company has been taking out full-page advertisements in leading newspapers over the past few days, pointing out its strengths and promising that it can survive independently.

However, analysts believe Mr Amelio has an uphill struggle to salvage Apple's image and convince the public that it can recover from a string of strategic blunders as well as protect its share of the personal computer market, which has shrunk recently from more than 10 per cent to about 8 per cent.

# Stakis casino for Ladbroke

LADBROKE, the hotels and betting company, is expanding its casino operations with the £27.5 million purchase of the Barracuda Casino from Stakis, the leisure group (Alasdair Murray writes).

Ladbroke was one of the leading casino operators in the UK until it lost its licence in 1979 for contravening gaming regulations, an action that resulted in a halving of group profits that year. But since 1994, the company

has made a comeback, buying three central London casinos, although it is concentrating on expansion overseas.

Stakis has decided to sell the casino to concentrate on its chain of mid-market provincial casinos. The Barracuda, in Baker Street, is one of central London's largest casinos, with 16 gaming tables. It attracts gamblers who spend £400-£500 a night. In the year to October 1, 1995, it made £27 million on turnover of £45 million.

# Stop claims clock, says SIB

THE Securities and Investments Board (SIB) yesterday urged insurers to follow the lead of the Prudential and not to dismiss claims of pension mis-selling because they are late (Sara McConnell writes). The industry's review of cases to uncover and compensate victims has fallen badly behind schedule and SIB was replying to a letter from Bill Day, national pensions officer of the GMB union, expressing concern that many claim-

ants could be barred because of the time factor. Mr Day warned they may be forced to resort to the courts.

SIB told Mr Day: "SIB has no legal power to impose this course [relaxing time limitations]. However, the company which SIB regulates directly, the Prudential, has indicated that it will take this approach and we believe it would be in the best interests of all concerned if others were to give a similar indication".

# Britannia to reward members with cash

By Karen Zagor

THE Britannia Building Society plans to reward members with annual cash handouts, adding a new twist to the ways in which societies are rewarding loyal members (Pennington, this page). Until now, societies have opted to increase savings and cut mortgage rates in an attempt to show members that mutuality is as beneficial in the long run as merging or converting to publicly held banks.

The Britannia's move, expected to be announced officially tomorrow, comes closest to the cash and/or shares rewards offered to members of societies that are merging or converting. The size of the cash incentive will be pegged to the amount a member borrows or saves. The Britannia hopes this will encourage members to use an ever-widening range of products.

The mortgage rate cuts offered by the Yorkshire and Northern Rock societies may appeal to borrowers keen on lower monthly payments, but they are unlikely to convince members to put more money into other products.

Bradford & Bingley, which is reducing its variable lending rate by 0.25 percentage points at the same time as increasing savings rates by an average of 0.25 of a point, is more likely to convince customers to both save and borrow with the society.

The Britannia's cash payments are likely to be popular with savers and borrowers, but the commitment to pay cash every year could become a straitjacket in the future.

# News Int notches up £168m profit

By Sarah Cunningham

NEWS INTERNATIONAL, owner of The Times, reported first-half profits of £168.9 million yesterday, in spite of a £42.1 million charge against the closure of Today.

In the same period of the previous year, the company made a profit of £56.9 million, but that included a one-off £400.4 million gain on the sale of 20 per cent of its shares in BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster.

The company made an operating profit in the first half, ending December 31 last year, of £76.2 million, an increase of 36 per cent. Its newspapers, which include The Sunday Times, The Sun and News of the World, have continued to strengthen their market position through increased circulation and growth in advertising revenue, it said.

BSkyB, in which News International holds 40 per cent, has

continued to show growth in profitability and in the number of subscribers, which rose from 4.16 million to 5.18 million in the period. News International is a subsidiary of The News Corporation, which on Wednesday reported operating profits of \$492 million for the same period.

Leslie Hinton, News International chief executive, said: "We are delighted with these excellent results, achieved in a brutally competitive market. We are especially pleased that we have been able to maintain, and in some cases increase, the circulation of our titles despite the necessity to raise cover prices in response to significantly higher newsprint costs."

The company will pay an interim dividend to special dividend shareholders of 1.68p per share.

# Bass hurt by loss in gaming division

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in Bass, the brewing and leisure company, fell 7p to 736p yesterday after it revealed that profits in its gaming division had fallen 30 per cent because of bad weather and the impact of the National Lottery.

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, said that earnings in the first 16 weeks of the financial year had grown in line with expectations apart from in the Bass leisure division.

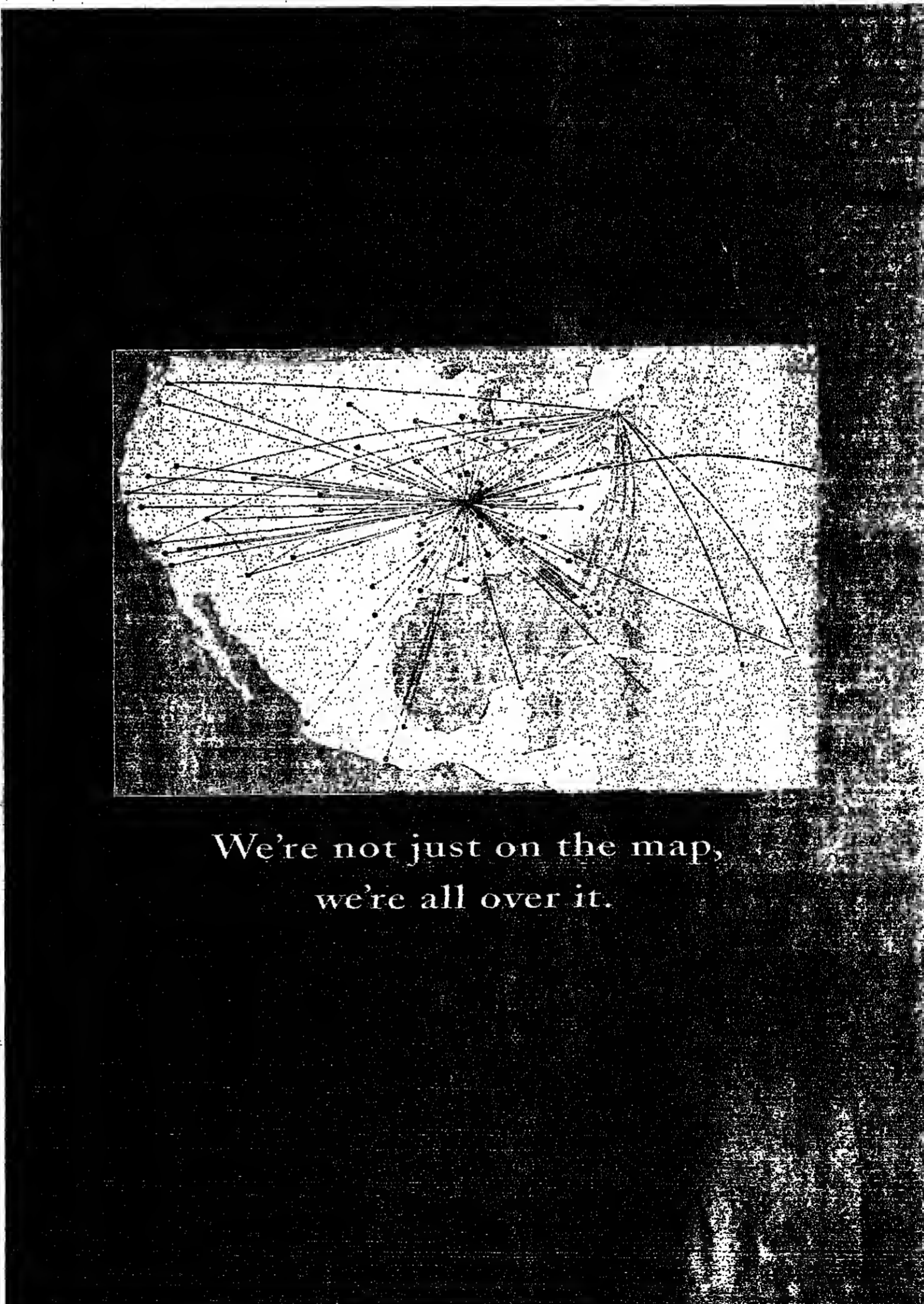
Admissions at the Gala bingo clubs fell 6 per cent, although the average spend rose 25 per cent. Turnover from Coral bookmakers was up 6 per cent but average turnover per shop was down 8 per cent because of the reduced winter racing season.

Holiday Inn Worldwide, the hotels division, saw profits rise. Revenue per room rose 4 per cent in the US and 10 per cent in Europe.

Bass Tavernis, the company's pub division, operated an increased number of outlets for the first time in four years. Drink takings rose 7 per cent, while food revenues were up 50 per cent and machine revenues increased 2 per cent.

Bass's beer volumes increased 1 per cent, while off-licence trade rose 10 per cent. Sir Ian said: "I remain confident that the group will make good progress through the rest of this financial year."

Tempus, page 24



We're not just on the map, we're all over it.

When planning your next trip to the US, Caribbean or Mexico, your first stop should be at TWA. Call your travel agent or TWA on 0345 333 333 to find out more about our great fares to more than 100 destinations.



TRANS WORLD AIRLINES

We're up to something good.

YOU DO MUCH MONEY PORT? NO HOPE NO

هكذا قال الرجل

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Speculators go on bid alert after MAI deal

ALL eyes focused on the media sector, as the City braced itself for a spate of takeovers and mergers after news of the proposed £2.9 billion merger of United News & Media and MAI.



Coral's profits have been hit by the National Lottery

Speculators did not have long to wait to find out the reason behind Wednesday's flurry of activity in shares of United News, publisher of the Daily Express, Sunday Express and Daily Star. But details of the merger with MAI, owner of Anglia Television and the controlling shareholder in Meridian, the independent television broadcaster holding the franchise for the South of England, surprised the market.

It had been assumed in the Square Mile that United was preparing to dispose of its stable of national newspapers. MAI shareholders will get 64 United shares for every 100 MAI held.

Brokers described it a defensive move by MAI, which had itself been seen as a possible takeover target. The speculators refuse to rule out the possibility of a bid for MAI from other quarters. MAI finished 69p higher at 48p with almost 31 million shares changing hands.

United News was 25p up at 65p on turnover of 15 million shares. But last night Carlton Communications, which holds the London weekday independent television franchise, was being ruled out as possible bidder for MAI. Carlton finished 3p lower at £10.2. Nevertheless, the speculation excited the market which had been pinning its hopes on a spate of takeovers and stakebuilding exercises after the Government's relaxation of cross-media ownership rules.

Those companies seen as potential takeover targets include Pearson, up 5p at 69p, whose name was being linked with Viacom, the US media group. There were also gains for The Telegraph, up 3p at 46.3p, and Mirror Group, 6p better at 207p.

Among the television companies, Scottish TV continues to be viewed as a takeover target, with the shares adding 12p at 606p, while gains were also seen in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, up 53p to 900p, and HTV, up 2p to 351p.

News International, owner of The Times and 40 per cent shareholder of BSkyB, firmed 1p to 34p. The company reported first-half profits of

£168.9 million before tax. Last year's comparable figure of £561.9 million included a £401 million profit arising from the sale of part of its stake in BSkyB. This year's figure was struck before costs of £42.1 million relating to the closure of Today newspaper.

The market is certain to test the 3,700 level today after extending recent losses. Monument Oil & Gas edged ahead 4p to 604p, supported by a buy recommendation from NatWest Securities. It says the weak gas market has overshadowed the value of Monument's Liverpool Bay gas contracts. NatWest has faith in Monument's management, and says the company is focusing again on future growth.

Shrugging off another record-breaking run overnight on Wall Street, the FT-SE 100 index finished 17.7 down at 3,708.4.

Zeneca is moving in on the fast-growing migraine market with the purchase of Glaxo Wellcome's new treatment 311C90.

The drug is currently undergoing clinical trials. Glaxo agreed to abide by an undertaking issued by the European Commission to dispose of the drug when it bought Wellcome last year. Glaxo Wellcome responded with a rise of 3p to 933p, while Zeneca hardened 14p to £12.56.

Better than expected third-quarter figures cheered BT and were reflected in the share price which rose 2 1/2p to 359p.

Lloyds Chemists firmed a further 3p to 470p after recommending the counter-bid from Gehe, the German pharmaceutical group, worth 45p a share. This compares with an offer of around 40p a share from UniChem, which is expected to come back with a bid of between 470p and 480p a share, valuing Lloyds Chemists at £588 million. UniChem finished 3p easier at 245p.

GI GILT-EDGED: Attempts to extend the previous day's gains lacked conviction, with investors anxiously awaiting the outcome of last night's \$12 billion US Treasury bond 30-year auction.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt traded in narrow limits for much of the session before ending a tick lower at £109 1/2 in that trading that saw 46,000 contracts completed.

Conventional issues finished mixed with Treasury 8 per cent 2013 a tick off at £100 1/2, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick firmer at £104 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street paused for breath after the recent spate of highs and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 7.58 points lower at 5,484.54.

The news that Amstrad had plunged into the red during the first six months was countered by a brighter outlook for the second half and an increase in the dividend. Alan Sugar, chairman, said he does not expect to take any further exceptional charges.

He expects the amalgamation of Amstrad Direct and Viglen to save £3 million a year. The shares perked up with a rise of 17p to 200p as more than 7 million were traded.

Hard on the heels of this week's profits warning from Allied Domecq, down 4p at 507p, comes news from rival Bass that it is being hit by the National Lottery. Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that although most of the businesses had been doing well, betting and bingo had suffered in the first three months.

The leisure retailing division has seen turnover plunge 30 per cent with Gala hit by the lottery and the Coral chain of betting shops hurt by falls in both margins and turnover. Bass reacted to the news with a fall of 9p to 734p.

Lloyds Chemists firmed a further 3p to 470p after recommending the counter-bid from Gehe, the German pharmaceutical group, worth 45p a share. This compares with an offer of around 40p a share from UniChem, which is expected to come back with a bid of between 470p and 480p a share, valuing Lloyds Chemists at £588 million. UniChem finished 3p easier at 245p.

GI GILT-EDGED: Attempts to extend the previous day's gains lacked conviction, with investors anxiously awaiting the outcome of last night's \$12 billion US Treasury bond 30-year auction.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt traded in narrow limits for much of the session before ending a tick lower at £109 1/2 in that trading that saw 46,000 contracts completed.

Conventional issues finished mixed with Treasury 8 per cent 2013 a tick off at £100 1/2, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick firmer at £104 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street paused for breath after the recent spate of highs and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 7.58 points lower at 5,484.54.

MAJOR INDICES

Table with columns for Index Name, Value, and Change. Includes New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and various regional indices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change. Includes Ballynarry Htdgs, Century Inns, Dmaek, Medika Key, Nthn Petm Wts, Revelation Pnc, Self-Steeing Sys, Skypharma 3 Ws, and Viewinn.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change. Includes Berkeley Gp, Oxford Mot, and others.

MARKET MOVEMENTS

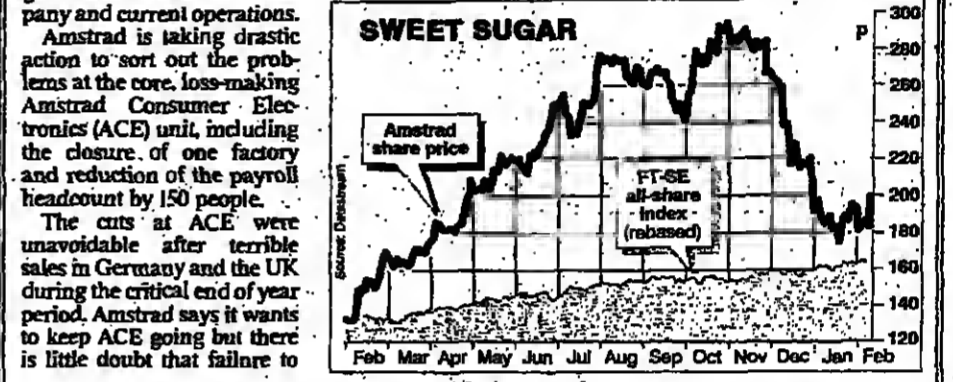
Table showing market movements for various sectors and companies. Includes RISES (Interpump, BS Group, Amstrad, etc.) and FALLS (Hertles, Arjo Wiggins, etc.).

TEMPUS More risk, less reward

WOULD you put your money in a business that invests £2.5 billion a year on immobile infrastructure, knowing that the return will be decided bureaucratically after the event by its worst enemy? Amazingly, however, British Telecom still has 2.5 million shareholders content to see it underperform a rising stock market average indefinitely.

The hope has always been that the market would grow so fast that there would be room for everyone, including the Director-General of Telecommunications. That hope was shaken during the faltering recovery, in the nine months to end-December, when turnover rose by only 3.4 per cent and that depended on BT's share of 34 per cent growth at Celtel. In the third quarter there was some renewed pick-up in domestic call volumes, but BT is losing a net 100,000 customers a

quarter to cable, and this should accelerate with easy number portability. Increased use of the system is therefore largely profitless and investment in extra capacity hard to justify on such a scale. Pre-tax profits, up 13 per cent so far, were flattered by low redundancy charges. Since the annual target remains the same, that just leaves more for the final quarter. Operating profits are static. Overseas expansion owes more to strategy than to near-term profit hopes, so any worthwhile profit growth relies on BT marketing expanding the market. The shares sell at under 12 times likely 1995-96 earnings but the comfort is in the 6.5 per cent dividend yield. That is 75 per cent above the market average, making BT an ideal defensive holding if you like regulatory risk and expect the share index to turn down.



Amstrad share price and FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

Amstrad shareholders have absorbed a few shocks over the years but they will have received a severe jolt from yesterday's disclosure of a £5.4 million loss in the six months ending December '91. Fortunately, Alan Sugar, the chairman, was able to say typical on some good news about the company and current operations.

Amstrad is taking drastic action to sort out the problems at the core, loss-making Amstrad Consumer Electronics (ACE) unit, including the closure of one factory and reduction of the payroll headcount by 150 people.

The cuts at ACE were unavoidable after terrible sales in Germany and the UK during the critical end of year period. Amstrad says it wants to keep ACE going but there is little doubt that failure to

deliver profits at ACE will hasten the days of its closure. More encouraging results and forecasts came from Amstrad's other businesses, particularly Dancell, the Danish mobile phone maker and the computer direct-sales business, Viglen.

Dancell is the reason to stay with Amstrad. Order books are said to be encouraging, production is approaching target levels and a healthy profit contribution is expected in the second half. The mobile phone market currently resembles the personal computer market of ten years ago, the sort of business Mr Sugar likes and understands. That is both encouraging and a warning to shareholders.

Amstrad is taking drastic action to sort out the problems at the core, loss-making Amstrad Consumer Electronics (ACE) unit, including the closure of one factory and reduction of the payroll headcount by 150 people.

The cuts at ACE were unavoidable after terrible sales in Germany and the UK during the critical end of year period. Amstrad says it wants to keep ACE going but there is little doubt that failure to

deliver profits at ACE will hasten the days of its closure. More encouraging results and forecasts came from Amstrad's other businesses, particularly Dancell, the Danish mobile phone maker and the computer direct-sales business, Viglen.

Dancell is the reason to stay with Amstrad. Order books are said to be encouraging, production is approaching target levels and a healthy profit contribution is expected in the second half. The mobile phone market currently resembles the personal computer market of ten years ago, the sort of business Mr Sugar likes and understands. That is both encouraging and a warning to shareholders.

Amstrad is taking drastic action to sort out the problems at the core, loss-making Amstrad Consumer Electronics (ACE) unit, including the closure of one factory and reduction of the payroll headcount by 150 people.

The cuts at ACE were unavoidable after terrible sales in Germany and the UK during the critical end of year period. Amstrad says it wants to keep ACE going but there is little doubt that failure to

deliver profits at ACE will hasten the days of its closure. More encouraging results and forecasts came from Amstrad's other businesses, particularly Dancell, the Danish mobile phone maker and the computer direct-sales business, Viglen.

Dancell is the reason to stay with Amstrad. Order books are said to be encouraging, production is approaching target levels and a healthy profit contribution is expected in the second half. The mobile phone market currently resembles the personal computer market of ten years ago, the sort of business Mr Sugar likes and understands. That is both encouraging and a warning to shareholders.

Amstrad is taking drastic action to sort out the problems at the core, loss-making Amstrad Consumer Electronics (ACE) unit, including the closure of one factory and reduction of the payroll headcount by 150 people.

The cuts at ACE were unavoidable after terrible sales in Germany and the UK during the critical end of year period. Amstrad says it wants to keep ACE going but there is little doubt that failure to

deliver profits at ACE will hasten the days of its closure. More encouraging results and forecasts came from Amstrad's other businesses, particularly Dancell, the Danish mobile phone maker and the computer direct-sales business, Viglen.

Dancell is the reason to stay with Amstrad. Order books are said to be encouraging, production is approaching target levels and a healthy profit contribution is expected in the second half. The mobile phone market currently resembles the personal computer market of ten years ago, the sort of business Mr Sugar likes and understands. That is both encouraging and a warning to shareholders.

Amstrad is taking drastic action to sort out the problems at the core, loss-making Amstrad Consumer Electronics (ACE) unit, including the closure of one factory and reduction of the payroll headcount by 150 people.

The cuts at ACE were unavoidable after terrible sales in Germany and the UK during the critical end of year period. Amstrad says it wants to keep ACE going but there is little doubt that failure to

deliver profits at ACE will hasten the days of its closure. More encouraging results and forecasts came from Amstrad's other businesses, particularly Dancell, the Danish mobile phone maker and the computer direct-sales business, Viglen.

Dancell is the reason to stay with Amstrad. Order books are said to be encouraging, production is approaching target levels and a healthy profit contribution is expected in the second half. The mobile phone market currently resembles the personal computer market of ten years ago, the sort of business Mr Sugar likes and understands. That is both encouraging and a warning to shareholders.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE, ICE-LOR (London Oil), GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, and METAL EXCHANGE.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including RUBBER, BIFFEX, and other market data.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices for FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, Three Month Sterling, and other instruments.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, and USA.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various currencies and instruments.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates for various countries and currencies.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposit rates for various currencies and terms.

FT-SE VOLUMES

Table of FT-SE volumes for various sectors and companies.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (BANK & CO)

Table of gold and precious metals prices from Bank & Co.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various terms and currencies.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life options for various companies and terms.

FT-SE 100

Table of FT-SE 100 index data for various dates and times.

FT-SE 250

Table of FT-SE 250 index data for various dates and times.

FT-SE 100

Table of FT-SE 100 index data for various dates and times.

FT-SE 250

Table of FT-SE 250 index data for various dates and times.

FT-SE 100

Table of FT-SE 100 index data for various dates and times.

FT-SE 250

Table of FT-SE 250 index data for various dates and times.

FT-SE 100

Table of FT-SE 100 index data for various dates and times.

FT-SE 250

Table of FT-SE 250 index data for various dates and times.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Paper, pen and digital

NEVER say the President of the United States is not trendy. Jumping on the new technology bandwagon, Bill Clinton yesterday signed the new Telecommunications Bill — which deregulates the entire US phone industry — with a digital pen on a digital pad. Result: the Bill, plus President's signature, went out on the World Wide Web. But was a digital signature legally and constitutionally binding? Unfortunately, the White House did not know. Anyway, no one was taking risks. To be on the safe side, Clinton also signed the Bill in ink on paper. Some things will probably never change.

Poles and holes

THE extrovert London tones of Sir Peter Bonfield are signalling a radical change of a sort at British Telecom. Sir Peter, fresh into the chief executive's seat from ICL, explains that he has spent his first 40 days "up the poles and down the holes" to get to know his new company, as well as meeting regulators in four countries. As it turns out, Sir Peter has not had enough safety training to be allowed up the poles yet, but spent two hours down a hole in East London's Commercial Road "helping" engineers to make repairs and noting cabling 50 years old.

Book to order

THE Royal Canadian Mounted Police are first on the list for a new book to be launched next week on *How Not to be a Money Launderer*. Nigel Morris-Cotterill, the author, received the Mounties' request days after an advert for his new book went live on the Internet. A £20 cheque has already arrived from the Canadian Mounted Police College in Ottawa, and the author has pinned the counterfoil to his wall.



"It's good to talk money"

Rat pickings

ENOUGH of Fat Cats. Let's turn to British Rats, whose year, Chinese-style, begins on February 19. Traditionally, Rat years are ones of opportunity for those prepared to take risk. Lori Rei, a hand analyst of Liskeard, Cornwall, says "the Rat is a master at finding rich pickings". Those should be sweet words for some British businessmen.

Sir Christopher Hogg, the man who demerged Courtaulds Textiles from Courtaulds, and whose reputation for making businesses work hard becomes chairman of Allied Domecq next month. The outgoing chairman has just issued a profits warning.

Gerry Robinson, with Forte tucked under his cheese trap, should be aware Rat years are "an excellent 12-month period for new beginnings and fresh starts".

John Kemp-Welch, chairman of the Stock Exchange, should be pleased to know Lori predicts a year when markets and economies are buoyant, and things are generally on the up. And Sir John Harvey-Jones can preach his gospel to new businesses that it's a year to "begin projects, launch new products and forge new links".

COLIN CAMPBELL

# Hollick deal heralds era of new media conglomerates

Eric Reguly and Ross Tieman look at the start of a trend

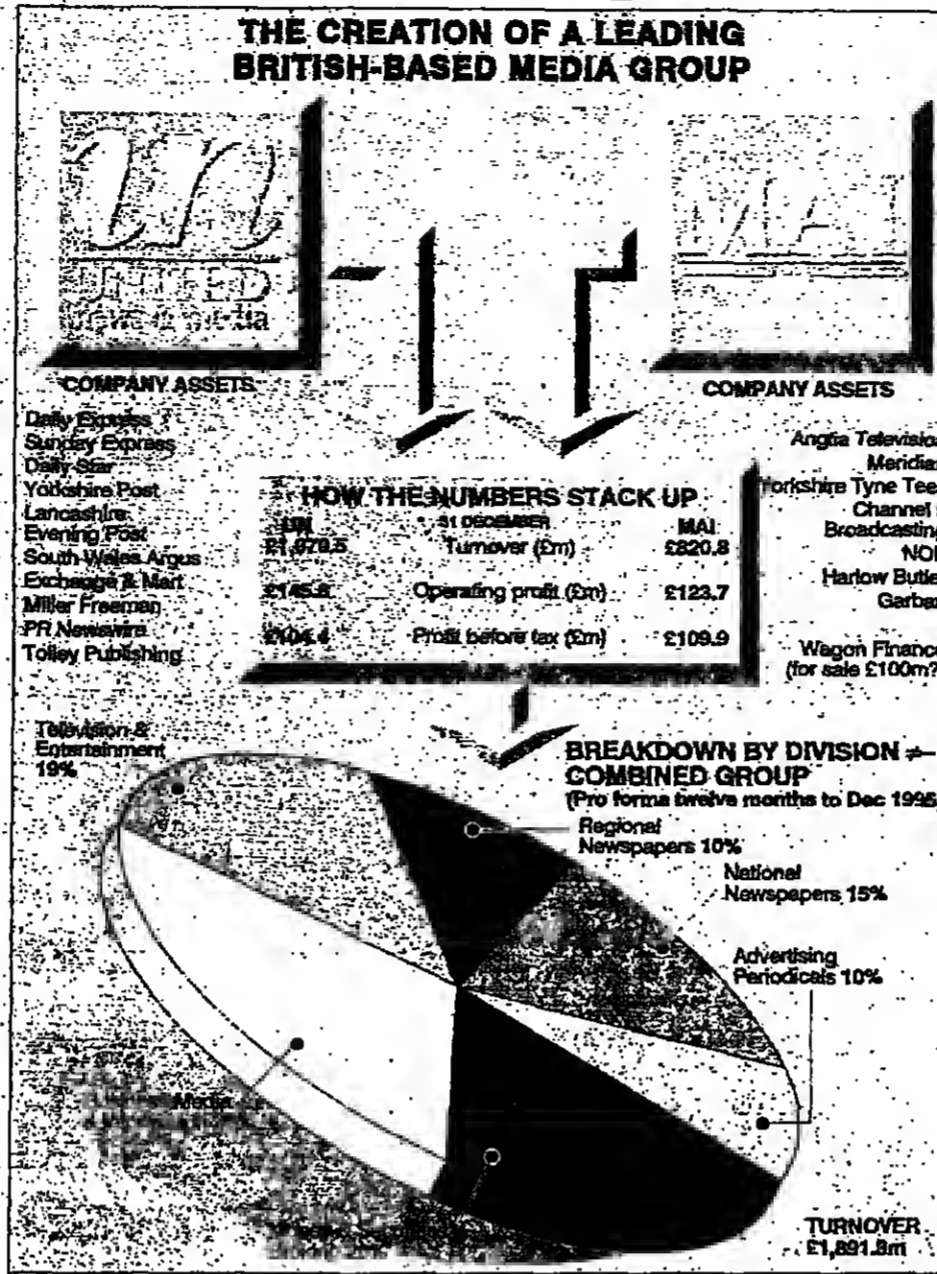
THE merger of United News & Media, a vintage, slow-moving newspaper company, and MAI, an aggressive television and financial services group, is expected to be the first of many such deals in Britain. This particular transaction was triggered by the Broadcasting Bill, now making its way through Parliament, which will remove many of the toughest restrictions on cross-media ownership. The age of the media conglomerate is here.

If anything, Britain is a latecomer to the trend. In America, sweeping changes in communications legislation have unleashed a cross-ownership free-for-all that has only just begun. The ultimate goal is to obtain access to residential and business consumers, be it through TV and radio signals, phone lines, the Internet, on-line services or newspapers and magazines. Any group that controls only one or two of these methods of access is reckoned to have a limited future; the winners will be the players that control many or all of them.

Lord Hollick, the managing director of MAI, who is to be chief executive of the as-yet-unnamed merged group, cites The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, as a pioneer. News Corp — which owns dozens of newspapers around the world, America's Fox TV network and a 40 per cent stake in satellite TV company BSkyB — last year joined forces with MCI, America's second-largest long-distance phone company. MCI, which in turn is owned 20 per cent by British Telecom, bought a 13.5 per cent stake in News Corp for \$2.4 billion. The partners, among other things, plan to launch a satellite TV service in the US.

The recent passage in the US of the Telecommunications Bill will accelerate this process. The Bill allows local, long-distance and cable companies to attack each other's markets and will probably trigger a flurry of takeovers and partnerships. Nynex and Bell Atlantic, two US regional phone companies, are negotiating a joint venture in the long-distance telephone market. They, in turn, are expected to seek partnerships with multimedia companies so that they can provide services such as video-on-demand.

British media companies, in the expectation of more liberal cross-media ownership rules, have been thinking along the same lines. The Mirror Group launched Live TV, a cable channel, and bought a 20 per cent stake in Scottish Television. David Montgomery,



Mirror chief executive, sees television as the group's future. He has been lobbying the Government for an exemption that would allow the group to increase its TV interests. At the moment, it has little room to manoeuvre because it controls more than 20 per cent of the national newspaper market, a level that brings it to the ceiling on cross-media ownership under existing rules.

Pearson, the owner of the *Financial Times* and Penguin books, has also been driving hard in the TV sector. It has just added SelectV, producer of *Lovejoy* and *Birds of a*

*Feather*, to its burgeoning broadcasting portfolio, which includes Thames TV and Australia's Grundy Worldwide. The Telegraph group, publisher of *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph*, is one of the few large newspaper companies without a sizeable electronic media investment. However, many newspaper groups are diversifying. About half of the largest newspaper companies in North America and Europe have broadcasting arms, and those are companies that investment that analysts favour.

To some degree, MAI's merger with United is a bail-out of United's ailing newspapers. The circulations of the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* have been in freefall, although its regional titles have been more robust. Aside from pumping a fortune into the editorial departments of the papers, there seemed to be no way of stopping their decline. Efforts to stem the slide, by hiring new editors and launching an open chequebook search for new journalistic talent, are already under way.

But the rumour, denied by Lord Stevens, United's chairman, was that the national titles were on the auction block of the *Sunday Times*, was part of one group trying to buy the papers, and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, was said to be a member of another. Carlton Communications, the largest ITV company, was also thought to be interested and may end up spoiling the MAI-United merger by bidding for United.

The merger of United and MAI through a tax-free share swap will create what the two companies describe as "a leading British-based media group". Regional and national newspapers will account for only 25 per cent of combined turnover and 18 per cent of combined operating profits, based on financial figures for

MAI makes and broadcasts TV programmes such as those based on P. D. James's Adam Dalgleish novels

the year to December 31. Advertising periodicals will account for 10 per cent of turnover, and television and entertainment 19 per cent. MAI owns Anglia Television and Meridian Broadcasting, the ITV licensees, and makes programmes such as those based on P. D. James's Adam Dalgleish novels.

Money and securities broking will account for 20 per cent, and business media and information 26 per cent. Lord Hollick said that the group's heavy exposure to business media and information makes comparisons with Reuters, the electronic information and news group, perfectly valid.

So what are the benefits of putting two companies together? On the practical front, cost savings are an obvious advantage. MAI will close its head office and move into the black and grey Express building on the banks of the River Thames. Some departments will combine and some redundancies are inevitable. Lord Hollick said cost savings equivalent to about 10 per cent of the combined operating profits of £265 million are possible.

The merger, in theory, will release financial resources to prop up the ailing Express titles. It will also insulate the companies from hostile raiders. Both United and MAI were considered highly vulnerable to takeover attempts.

But Lord Hollick sees the potential for cross-fertilisation, cross-promotion and the development of new businesses as the greatest advantage. With TV, newspapers and advertising periodicals, United and MAI will have access to huge swathes of the population, while businesses such as PR Newswire, NOP, the pollster, and the exhibitions division will give it good coverage of the business market.

Lord Hollick said: "In our view, we have three or four businesses that are pre-eminent in their markets. What they need is additional resources, and this deal gives them that." Not everyone is convinced that synergies exist. Dan Colson, chief executive of The Telegraph, said he sees no crossover, for instance, between newspaper publishing and MAI's money and securities broking businesses. "It's very easy to be seduced by the theory that you have to be in all forms of the media in the first place, and money-broking isn't even media."

Nevertheless, the trend is likely to continue. There are few practical and legal reasons why newspaper and electronic media should be separate businesses anymore. Not all the mergers will succeed. United and MAI, however, have to be given credit for their pioneering spirit.

## When large investors find a voice

The institution's role as shareholder is changing, Marianne Curphey finds

Institutional investors, who for so long have behaved like inarticulate, slumbering giants, have suddenly found their voice and are making it heard.

The most publicly transformed of all is Standard Life, one of the largest investors, which yesterday announced its objections to Farnell Electronics's proposed acquisition of the US industrial company, Premier.

The price, it said, was too high; it would dilute earnings to Farnell's shareholders and would saddle Farnell with more than £430 million net debt.

Standard Life's outburst came just days after it had questioned the wisdom of Carlton Communication's proposed bonus increases for its most senior directors. Guy Jubbs, the insurer's corporate governance director, said companies should reward management for "outstanding achievement, not mediocrity", with the implication that Carlton's executives had not delivered the required results.

Yesterday he defended his comments by saying Standard Life felt it was "right to take a lead" on the issue and a company's performance ought to be "continually assessed".

Until recently, institutional investors in the UK, unlike those in America, had seemed rather passive, either trying to put pressure on companies behind the scenes, or ultimately selling shares if they were unhappy with performance.

As institutional investors have increased in size, this becomes more difficult. In addition, the rise of indexed funds means trustees often can no longer use the option of selling shares, as they have to keep the appropriate weighting for the size of the company.

UK pension funds controlled assets worth £30 billion in 1975; today they amount to more than £500 billion. One fund manager said yesterday: "With a 3 per cent stake in a company it is impossible to sell quickly without driving the share price down. As investors get bigger, their influence over and responsibility to the stock market becomes greater."

Norwich Union, another chairman and chief executive, but he is convinced changes are overdue. One of the US's largest and most confrontational pension funds, the California Public Employees Retirement System, is already diversifying into the UK.

"Vociferous institutional investors are well established in the US and it was almost inevitable that our cousins across the Atlantic should influence us," he says. "Larger shareholders tend to speak out when negotiations behind the scenes have broken down. They have discovered a very powerful tool by speaking out about one company, they are signalling to others in which they hold a stake that they too should step into line."

The biggest UK investor, the Prudential, still prefers discreet negotiations, though it does have a secret list of companies about which it is concerned. Fidelity and Legal & General, likewise, have so far stayed silent.

institutional giant, has also expressed "concern" over Carlton's plans, but says large investors rarely speak publicly without first outflanking the company of their intentions.

Anita Skipper, corporate governance manager at the Norwich, says: "It is a delicate balance between talking privately to companies and trying to reduce any misunderstanding between us and our policyholders. It is not a matter of washing dirty linen in public. During the row over the pay and perks for British Gas executives, individual shareholders felt we were not on their side. This shows them that we are."

So after years of secret meetings with directors and being accused of inertia and short-termism, is the culture changing?

John Holland, Professor of International Banking and Finance at Glasgow University, believes it is. His recent research has found companies make extensive use of behind-the-scenes talks to influence a company before it makes decisions on issues such as remuneration, perks, length of contracts, succession and separation of the roles of the

chairman and chief executive, but he is convinced changes are overdue. One of the US's largest and most confrontational pension funds, the California Public Employees Retirement System, is already diversifying into the UK.

"Vociferous institutional investors are well established in the US and it was almost inevitable that our cousins across the Atlantic should influence us," he says. "Larger shareholders tend to speak out when negotiations behind the scenes have broken down. They have discovered a very powerful tool by speaking out about one company, they are signalling to others in which they hold a stake that they too should step into line."

The biggest UK investor, the Prudential, still prefers discreet negotiations, though it does have a secret list of companies about which it is concerned. Fidelity and Legal & General, likewise, have so far stayed silent.

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Accountants can fight back and work to restore image

From Mr David W. K. Chitty Sir, I wholeheartedly agreed with Robert Bruce's report on the consequences of Mr John Cook's victory over the leadership of the English ICA (January 25). The English ICA has become increasingly burdened by a bloated central bureaucracy which is remote from the membership and which fails to address the issues confronting either the profession or British business. Few members actively participate in institute affairs and the institute has become publicly ridiculed by its expensive and pointless poster campaign telling the general public that they will "sleep better with a chartered accountant".

Mr Cook's actions demonstrate that the membership can fight back. The next challenge is for members to change the constitution to require the president to be elected by a vote of all the members rather than by council members behind closed doors. The proposed merger with CIMA should be rejected as it offers nothing to the members of either institute except for an even larger central bureaucracy. The Law Society has demonstrated under the leadership of Martin Meares that a great professional body can be run democratically for the interest of its members. This should be an example to the members of the English ICA who now have a chance themselves to assert their voices, achieve democracy, and collectively work together to restore the tarnished image of their profession.

Yours faithfully, DAVID W. K. CHITTY (Technical Manager), Chantry Vellacott, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, WCL

#### Vital workforce changes ignored

From Mr John E. Moore

Sir, I find the current discussions of earnings growth to be hollow (Philip Bassett, January 30). The views concentrate on the pay settlements and earnings growth of those who remain in their posts. Does Adair Turner really believe that everyone is on a CBI-monitored rising wage curve?

The commentators, government and private, seem to overlook completely the enormous change in the structure of the earning workforce in recent years, as huge numbers of older workers have been made redundant and, if they are lucky, rejoin the earnings ladder at a lower point. The effect of this in lowering average earnings seems to be ignored by the statisticians.

No wonder productivity per head has increased, but productivity per £ of earnings has surely increased much more, which is what really matters in international competitiveness. Yours faithfully, JOHN E. MOORE, 24 Wildcroft Drive, North Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey.

#### Charge accumulating interest to tackle the problem of bill payments

From Trevor Graham Baylis Sir, I was interested in Michael Heselton's comments on *Breakfast with Frost* concerning staying in business. He was proud to say "at least all my creditors were paid".

I am a tradesman and sole proprietor of a company and have traded for 27 years. In all that time without the support

from my bankers — Barclays — I would have gone out of business years ago and certainly would never have been able to afford to develop my invention of the Baygen Freepay Radio.

Some companies take up to 18 months to pay their bills. Others fold, leaving debts never paid. If the nation wants

to encourage new business, the newcomer must not carry the interest burden created by others. I believe the solution to this problem already exists. Banks, VAT offices and tax collectors charge accumulating interest on debts. Companies should, by law, be able to enforce their practice. The tradesman would add on a percentage of this levy to the Exchequer as payment for the enforcement of this rule.

Companies would not be allowed to dictate terms that might leave low-level creditors exposed or disqualify business opportunity on the basis of payment terms. Yours faithfully, TREVOR BAYLIS, Haven Studio, Eel Pie Island, Twickenham, Middlesex.

#### Extra zeros at KPMG taken into account

From Mr James Porter Sir, Much is being written about the size of partners' salaries in the recently published accounts of KPMG. Surely the figures are reasonable as reward for the risks taken.

The partners of an accountancy firm are wholly liable for damages they may incur

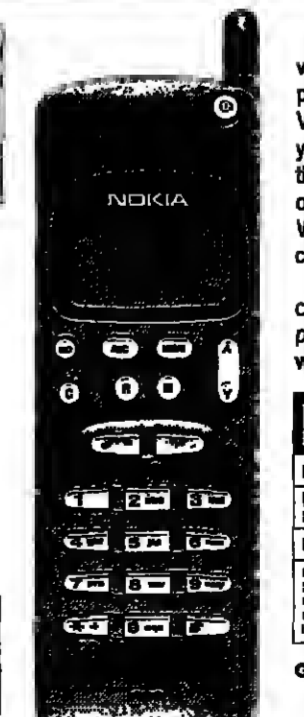
during litigation, even after retirement from the firm. Remuneration should always reflect on responsibility, and, in the case of KPMG, the extra zeros are well earned. Yours faithfully, JAMES PORTER, 31 Criffell Avenue, Clapham SW2.

## Nokia Digital Security. Cellphones Direct Prices!

LIMITED OFFER £9.99 INC. VAT FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE PersonalWorld

- ◆ GSM MODEL 2010.
- ◆ 99 name/number memory
- ◆ 100 mins talk-time
- ◆ 30 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Complete with standard battery and rapid travel charger
- ◆ Weight approx 320g

FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR/CHARGER FREE SPARE BATTERY FREE LEATHER CASE TOGETHER WORTH OVER £75



Trust Cellphones Direct to make a world of difference to digital phone prices. With FREE connection to the Vodafone PersonalWorld Tariff, so you can use the phone throughout the UK, most of Europe and beyond on the GSM international network. With digital call clarity and absolute confidentiality.

Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone plus valuable extras within 4 working days.

FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD	
Monthly Rental	£17.83 (£15 + VAT)
Peak Rate Calls	42p per min (35p + VAT)
Off Peak Calls	18p per min (15p + VAT)

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

## Cellphones

ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS  
**FREEPHONE 0500 000 888**  
 CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 8PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM  
PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THE ADVERTISED NUMBER WITH YOU. AND CHECK THE OFFER. OFFERS ARE AVAILABLE TO ACCEPT QUALIFYING OFFERS. Offer subject to status and a standard airtime contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd. 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-on-Thames TW9 1JH. Full terms details and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 299222.

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers like 'UNIT TRUST NAME', 'UNIT PRICE', and 'PERFORMANCE'. Includes sub-sections for various fund categories.

هاتفنا 0800 24 24

"they don't hammer you over a little overdraft" for 24 hour telephone banking 0800 24 24

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or additional header information.



هڪڙو من لاءِ

# Equities extend their losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
<b>BANKS</b>							
<b>BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST</b>							
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>							
<b>ENGINEERING VEHICLES</b>							
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>							
<b>LEISURE &amp; HOTELS</b>							
<b>MEDIA</b>							
<b>INSURANCE</b>							
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>							
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>							
<b>BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT</b>							
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>							
<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; ELECT</b>							
<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>							
<b>CHEMICALS</b>							
<b>ENGINEERING</b>							

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
<b>MINING</b>							
<b>PROPERTY</b>							
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>							
<b>TEXTILES &amp; APPAREL</b>							
<b>TRANSPORT</b>							
<b>RETAILERS, FOOD</b>							
<b>RETAILERS, GENERAL</b>							
<b>WATER</b>							

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>							
<b>PRINTING &amp; PAPER</b>							
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>							
<b>PROPERTY</b>							
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>							
<b>TEXTILES &amp; APPAREL</b>							
<b>TRANSPORT</b>							
<b>RETAILERS, FOOD</b>							
<b>RETAILERS, GENERAL</b>							
<b>WATER</b>							

**HMV Soft Rock**  
36 Classic Rock Ballads  
Including: Cher - Eric Clapton - Simple Minds - Meat Loaf  
Guns N Roses - INXS - Pretenders - Fleetwood Mac - David Bowie  
Special Value Double CD and Double Cassette  
**KNOW HMV - KNOW MUSIC**

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
<b>SHORTS (under 5 years)</b>							
<b>LONGS (over 15 years)</b>							
<b>UNRATED</b>							
<b>MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)</b>							
<b>INDEX-LINKED on projected return of</b>							



o lawyer



THEATRE

A melancholy study of the game of life? Storey's *The Changing Room* is revived in London



VISUAL ART

From the Tate's Cézanne show: the magnificent *Still Life with Apples* is today's choice

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

Flashes of insight, but also some indulgences, in Roger Norrington's exploration of Hector Berlioz



TOMORROW

Homage to an eminent Victorian: the centenary of Lord Leighton is celebrated with a fine exhibition

THEATRE: Rugby league drama in a David Storey classic; and an even-tempered portrait of comic Tommy Cooper

Life's a pitch, and then you die

Little up his sleeve

There is something odd, ironic and, for those of us who admire the man, highly satisfying in finding David Storey's rugby-football drama ensconced in the West End as part of a season of Royal Court "classics".

The Changing Room Duke of York's

at the Duke of York's is an excellent example of Storey's ability to evoke lives from snippets and a society from those lives.

The main event, a rugby league match somewhere in Yorkshire, occurs offstage. Nothing of obvious import happens amid the dingy brown benches, the grey-green plaster, the clothes hooks and (at the back) the dreary white tiles of a locker room that would have any modern rugby-league pro on the fax to his agent with demands for "hardship pay".

The players prepare for the game, they stagger in frozen and filthy at half-time and then dress and make their farewells, leaving the decrepit cleaner we met at the beginning to end the play with another despondent shove of the brush. Add to this a pep-talk from the coach, a couple of visits to the changing room by the club chairman, a casual frisking of the players by the ref, the substitution of a half-conscious forward, and that's about it.

Certainly, James Macdonald directs it with admirable attention to



Knock-on effects: Philip Martin Brown (Sandford), Brendan Coyle (Kendal), and Philip Whitchurch (Walsh) in David Storey's behind-the-scrum dramatisation

detail. And, although one or two of the bodies onstage might have trouble surviving a sprint for a taxi down St Martin's Lane, his 22-man cast create a credibly sweaty, authentically male atmosphere.

Character after character edges into being amid the mildly salacious banter and the smell of resin: Philip Whitchurch as the laughing boy whose idea of fun is urinating

Hooper as his bottom one. The chairman is a rich builder who never appears without his accountant, gives the appearance of having to fake an enthusiasm for the game, and moans about the deteriorating quality of everything from bricks to chickens to men.

But so, if only briefly, is something rare in Storey. You feel it when the time to face the crowd approaches and even the jokers go

quiet. You certainly feel it when the players return, justifiably proud at a hard task well performed. Divisions have been replaced by unity. There is camaraderie, even joy. For just a few moments a game and a changing room have shown what the world might be.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

This is the story of Tommy Cooper. Thankfully, playwright Garry Lyons' portrait of the fondly remembered fezz-topped comic (embodied by long-jawed, lumbering Steven Speirs) is a bit different from today's countless biographically scrappy tributes to rock'n'rollers.

True, we see Cooper rising to fame, and his final collapse. Scenes alternate between his behaviour offstage and his best-loved acts. And Speirs recreates Cooper's old tricks, combining manicness and mock clumsiness.

The surprise is that Lyons's play, first written for Hull Truck, specifically focuses on Cooper's pre-celebrity days when he was entertaining the troops in the Middle East just before demob. In Peter Rowe's energetic, stylish Everyman production, we watch Cooper in a memory-scape: an expanse

Frankie and Tommy Everyman, Liverpool

of sand encircled by old props baskets with a curtain stage at the rear, its proscenium arch fashioned from corrugated iron (designer Ashley Shairp).

Actually this is a story of two men, of the short-lived double act of Tommy Cooper and little Frankie Lyons. The latter went back to working sheetmetal after his battle with Cooper's growing ego. The surnames are no coincidence — the dramatist is Frankie's son.

As a consequence, Cooper is not simply fondly remembered. Combining research and poetic licence, Lyons Jr is really exploring the competitive aspect of double acts, the unfunny side of an obsessively ambitious comic, and the difference between large and small talent.

Speirs is not Cooper reincarnated. He has not got the vocal rasp, and the young Cooper was in fact more skeletal than hefty. Still, he builds up a quite complex character, sometimes hyperactive like an insecure child, sometimes bullishly crushing, maybe just driven, but perhaps a sharp caricaturist.

This is not a play of dazzling genius or depth. Ben Fox's basically affable, unbrilliant Frankie is not the Sallieri of light entertainment. The escalating rows could also be condensed. Nevertheless, the duo's interactions, with Cooper warding off intimacy by playing the joker, are very believably scripted.

KATE BASSETT

CONCERTS: Berlioz masterpieces; lively Beethoven; a period quartet

Homage paid in bits and pieces

ROGER NORRINGTON and the London Philharmonic continued their exploration of Berlioz at the Festival Hall with a programme of shorter works, some heard only rarely today.

LPO/Norrington Festival Hall

flashes of genius from Norrington. There were other times when he seemed so immersed in the unusual beauty of Berlioz's music that he appeared strangely indifferent to the audience.

fully played, was too indulged. This was generally the pattern: exhilarating climactic moments, but then a degree of self-absorption.

This was also true of the two overtures, the *Roman Carnival* and *Les Francs-Juges*. This last seems with ideas, not only in the thematic material but also in the composer's use of the orchestral palette.

the orchestra, giving solos to ophicleides and trombones, emphatic pizzicatos in the double basses and so on. No ophicleides in the London Philharmonic, of course, and the fat sound of modern tubas and trombones lent a ponderous air.

The least familiar item on the programme was the *Fantasie* on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, with the role of Spirits of the Air taken by the London Philharmonic Choir and a magical scoring that brilliantly created an atmosphere of enchantment. Much better known today is the song-cycle *Les Nuits d'été*, which was immaculately sung by Ann Murray.

TESS KNIGHTON

Big on gesture

Philharmonia/Wolff Festival Hall

CHARLES ROSEN, in his new book *The Romantic Generation*, professes the notion that "the choreographic gyrations of the virtuoso conductor are important to the audience's comprehension", on the grounds that "an accent accompanied by an outlying arm seems literally to become louder and more intense".

The podium choreography of Hugh Wolff, conducting the Philharmonia on Tuesday, provided a telling demonstration. The crouching and stalking were from the Tilson Thomas school of conducting. But there was also a repertoire of less histrionic gestures that did signal the conductor's intentions.

In Beethoven's Violin Concerto those gestures drew our

Teasing in fours

Quatuor Mosaïques Wigmore Hall

IT MAY not trip off the tongue, but the name of the Quatuor Mosaïques has been on the lips of many a connoisseur in recent years, Barry Millington writes. Its recordings of Haydn and Mozart have won praise and awards, and the Wigmore was full on Wednesday.

Quatuor Mosaïques consists of three Austrians and a Frenchman, playing period instruments. Christophe Coin, the Frenchman, is a distinguished cellist. Erich Höbarth, Andrea Bischof and Anita Mitterer, the Austrians, have been associated with Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Concentus Musicus Wien. The group's individual approach reminds one of those iconoclastic musicians.

The sound of their period instruments, whether in

Richard Cork continues his guide to the Tate's Cézanne retrospective



"Even the humblest objects were painted sumptuously": Cézanne's *Still Life with Apples*, 1893-94. Private collection

In Cézanne's day, still life was regarded as a rather inferior subject. But with typical defiance he insisted on painting even the humblest objects in a grand and sumptuous manner.

*Still Life with Apples*, painted when he was in his mid-fifties, is among the most delectable of these paintings. He liked injecting tension by making the objects tilt in unexpected directions. But that does not wholly

explain why the oval mouth of the green ceramic vase has been widened so surprisingly. When it suited him, Cézanne played around with perspective. Different components in *Still Life with Apples* seem to be viewed from different vantage points. He wanted us to gaze into the welcoming emptiness of the vase. But the

neighbouring glazed ginger jar is seen from lower down, so that Cézanne could emphasise its granifying roundly. The plate, by contrast, is raised up steeply on the white cloth, helping us to see the ripe, burnished Provençal apples as enticingly as possible. They spill out on to the patterned drape and seem to

be in danger of pushing the sugar bowl off the table. But Cézanne counters this unrest, and the almost volcanic upheaval of the cloth's mountainous forms, with the coolness of the wall behind.

Cézanne is at the Tate Gallery until April 28, sponsored by Ernst & Young. For advance booking, which is advised, telephone 0171-420 0000. Tomorrow: Richard Cork discusses *Woman with a Coffee-pot*, c. 1895

ot data under



CHOICE 1 Opera singer Sally Burgess spreads into the jazz field



CHOICE 2 Wagner comes to English National Opera, with a new staging of Tristan



CHOICE 3 John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men goes on stage in Edinburgh



DANCE Strong stuff from the Royal Ballet MacMillan revived, and a new work on the subject of Aids

LONDON WEEKEND JAZZ: Tonight at the South Bank, Tom Barrow's free-spirited 14-piece orchestra...

CHAPTER TWO Tom Coss and Sharon Glass play two unattached New Yorkers writing letters...

NEW RELEASES CLOCKERS (18) Steve Lee's heavy-handed version of Richard Price's novel about young drug-dealers in Brooklyn...

The poisonous side of sex



Life-and-death struggle: Darcey Bussell and Belinda Hatley in Matthew Hart's new Dances with Death

Kenneth MacMillan was breaking taboos when he choreographed The Invitation in 1960. A landmark in British ballet, it used the language of classical dance...

ANYONE in danger of falling for the official line peddled in the tabloids that opera is an entertainment fit only for "toffs" and fat cats...

ENTERTAINMENTS DANCE SADDLER'S WELLS 0171 733 0000 CORAZON FLAMENCO

ENTERTAINMENTS HER MAJESTY'S 0171 416 8000 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

With high Hou

Back t

To advertise in The Times theatre listings please call our entertainments team on 0171 481 1982 or fax 0171 481 9313.

POP 1

Chips off a famous old block: 3T are a trio of Jackson offspring — and don't mind who knows

POP 2

Simple truths, with an Irish accent, come on the latest tracks from the Saw Doctors

THE TIMES POP ARTS

POP 3

"The voice of a girl, the body of a Gladiator": who can resist the special charm of Audioweb?

POP 4

Gravity-defying Cleo brings a touch of the old magic to a season at the Café Royal

# With hopes high in Hounslow

NEW ALBUMS: The Bluetones take to the sky, Michael Jackson's nephews don't. Both will sell millions, says David Sinclair

THE BLUETONES

*Expecting To Fly* (Superior Quality Recordings/A&M BLUE 004) DESPITE the unseemly scramble by the latest wave of groups to dissociate themselves from the now rather dog-eared Britpop tag, the bandwagon rolls merrily onwards. And if the Bluetones are not an example of a new British band playing fine pop music, then it is hard to think who is.

Four earnest young men from Hounslow who have already been declared the great pale hopes of 1996 on the basis of a handful of singles, they offer plenty of passion, though nothing in the way of innovation. Sticking primarily to a retro formula of guitars, drums and voices, their debut album, *Expecting To Fly*, has a comfortably familiar sound which will do nothing to hinder its potentially massive commercial appeal.

On songs such as *Things Change* and *Time Is Again*, Adam Devlin's guitar-playing — encompasses the chiming grace of Johnny Marr and the choppy aggression of Pete Townshend, while singer Mark Morris plies his tales of romantic whimsy with a clean-cut voice, making a pleasing virtue out of his drawn-out, southern-English vowel sounds.

Disillusionment is a recurring theme — "I'm not the same person I was a year ago/You cut me deeply and the scars still show" — but, typically, it is music that turns a downcast mood into something life-affirming and wholly uplifting.

The Bluetones' fondness for pop melody, and the care with which the songs are written and arranged, means that they, stray, at times, a little too close to the hand, "tunesmithery" of the Beautiful South. But on harder numbers, such as the ambitious *Talking To Clarry* and *Cut Some Rug* (imagine the Stone Roses with a proper singer), there is a rare brilliance at work.

tancy has been rigorously excised from this debut.

The result is a sophisticated but stodgy collection of mature soul ballads and mellow swingbeat grooves that have been polished to dull perfection. Uncle Michael sings with the boys on *Why*, an insipid, orchestrated ballad that addresses such big questions as "Why does Wednesday come after Tuesday?" and his involvement alone will be a substantial hit.

However, their instinctive tendency to play safe means that despite their obvious talent, the Ts sound as if they have been catapulted into an early middle-age.

THE SAW DOCTORS

*Same Old Town* (Shantown Records/Pinnacle SAWDOC 004)

IMMUNE to the winds of change that, constantly, rake the pop landscape, the Saw Doctors continue to peddle their emerald brand of folk rock with stoic goodwill on their third album, *Same Old Town*. Songs ranging from the jolly *Macnas Parade* to the lilting *Clare Island* are peppered with the usual Irish landmarks, while the romantic refrain of "Why don't we share the darkness tonight?" is greeted (if only in the sleeve notes) with the riposte: "Guinness or Murphys?"

Musically it is a rugged, if rather guileless formula — "like Bono in wellingtons", as guitarist and singer Leo Moran memorably said — but there is a simple truth at the heart of songs such as *To Win Just Once* and the recent hit, *World Of Good*, that makes them strangely impervious to criticism.

As they put it themselves, "Life's too short for wasting/For ifs and might-have-beens" and *Same Old Town* is an album that demands to be savoured on its own terms, unhindered by the ifs and buts of fashion, timing or taste.

3T

*Brotherhood* (MJJ Music/Epic 481694) BROTHERS Taj (22), Taryll (20) and TJ Jackson (17) are the three Ts in 3T. Their Dad is Tito Jackson, formerly of the Jackson Five/Jacksons, which means that their uncle is none other than the King of Pop himself. Membership of a showbusiness dynasty undoubtedly has its advantages. Not only are the boys — none of whom looks a day over 15 — signed to Michael Jackson's MJJ label, but he has also contributed a new song, *Why*, to their album, *Brotherhood*.

However, the intensity of the grooming process, which effectively began at birth, and the burden of expectation which now rests on their slender shoulders is such that any spark of youthful innocence or spontaneity has been rigorously excised from this debut.

STATUS QUO

*Don't Stop* (Polygram TV 531 035)

IF EVER there was an argument for forcing the compulsory retirement of rock bands this is it. To celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of a partnership that was forged, appropriately, at a Butlin's holiday camp, Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt have hit on the idea of putting a selection of other people's songs, some of them perfectly good to begin with, through the Status Quo grinder.

Performed with a cavalier disregard for nuance and a deadening lack of conviction, the ominously titled *Don't Stop* is a farago of epic proportions. *Proud Mary*, *Get Back*, *Lucille*, *Sorrow*, *Raining in My Heart* and of course, Fleetwood Mac's presidential campaign song



Little fluffy clouds: the Bluetones, great white hopes of 1996, head for the heights on their debut album

*Don't Stop* are just some of the old chestnuts that get a roasting.

Torpedoed by lacklustre vocals and the Quo's notoriously arthritic rhythm section, even the Move's rabble-rousing *I Can Hear the Grass Grow* and Robert Palmer's haunting *Johnny and Mary* wilt like delicate blooms in the sun, while a collaboration with the Beach Boys on a version of their surfing classic *Fun Fun Fun* is nothing short of tragic. *Don't stop! If only they would.*

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (What's the Story) Morning Glory? ..... Oasis (Creation)
- 2 Jagged Little Pill ..... Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 3 The Bands ..... Radiohead (Parlophone)
- 4 Different Class ..... Pulp (Island)
- 5 Bizarre Fruit/Bizarre Fruit II ..... M People (Deconstruction)
- 6 All Change ..... Cast (Polydor)
- 7 Deliverance ..... Baby D (Systematic)
- 8 E.P.M. — the Very Best of ..... The Best (Go Feet)
- 9 HiStory ..... Michael Jackson (Epic)
- 10 Robson & Jerome ..... Robson & Jerome (RCA)

CONCERTS

## Perfect dentistry with added bite

Nick Heyward  
Dingwalls, NW1

THESE days, it is widely held that the owner of the most boyish grin in British pop is Blur's Damon Albarn. Back in the early 1980s, though, that mantle was cast around a young Nick Heyward's shoulders. While many musical contemporaries were experimenting with the frilled collars and extravagant fringes of New Romanticism, the relative wit and drive of his punk-pop band Haircut 100 came as a breath of fresh air.

His collective career was short-lived, however, and Heyward's subsequent progress as a solo artist has been hampered by the difficulties of persuading a listening public that a man first cherished for his pleasing dentistry can yet mature into a songwriter of genuine worth.

The penny might be beginning to drop though. *Tangled*, his recent album for Epic, has won warm reviews, going some way to repositioning the 34-year-old artist within the collective consciousness.

Driven by a much more muscular guitar sound than that which characterised his earlier work, his short, sharp songs have led some critics to comment that Heyward should be viewed almost as an older brother to the brash young heroes of Britpop. His acute lyrical eye provides the strongest support for such a

theory: maturity has further ripened his ability to evoke intensely English scenes through the clever use of a telling word or phrase, so that now social comment occurs where whimsicality previously reigned.

This one-off London appearance, coming towards the end of a 14-date tour, found Heyward deploying his grin far more sparingly than before and instead thrashing out those new songs (*She's Another Girl*, *London*, *Carry On Loving*, the recent modest hit *The World*) with relative aggression. Visits to his back catalogue were few and far between: 1983's *Blue Hat for a Blue Day* was scarcely recognisable in its new, swaggering incarnation, though the Haircuts' *Fantastic Day* from a year earlier still managed to project its original charm.

An obvious determination to carve out a new musical direction is to be applauded, however. If Albarn is still writing with Heyward's current energy in 15 years' time, he really will have something to smile about.

ALAN JACKSON

## Vocal acrobat

Cleo Laine  
Café Royal

AFTER Barbara Cook's tour de force last month, there was a danger that the rest of this winter's programming at the Café Royal would seem a terrible anticlimax. Cleo Laine's opening night laid those fears to rest. Though her singing does not exactly sweep you away in a storming torrent of emotion, she has lost none of her appetite for those gravity-defying, high-wire duets with John Dankworth.

On her album *Solitude*, released last year, Laine was matched with the Ellington Orchestra, now under the direction of Duke's son, Mercer. With Dankworth supplying most of the arrangements, the meeting went extremely well, particularly in the unearthing of a number of neglected tunes, including *Reflections* and the playful adaptation of *Sonnet to Hank Cinq*, a theme lifted from the Shakespearean collection *Shakespearian Thunder*.

It would take a miracle to squeeze a big band into the corner of the Green Room, and in any case the stripped-down setting of the Dankworth quartet suits Laine even better. Weaving her vocals between her husband's saxophones and clarinet and the filigree piano of John Horler, she has ample space to function as the group's third soloist.

Reaching back to the prehis-

toric era of W.C. Handy, Dankworth put a contemporary, funky spin on *St Louis Blues*. The wayfaring lyrics of *I Thought About You* were complemented by Malcolm Croose's insistent bass lines and Mike Bradley's train-like drum motifs. Given her range, Laine is the perfect choice to perform *Croole Love Call*, her tribute to Adelaide Hall, embellished in this reading by exceptional if rarely heard lyrics concocted by Lorraine Feather.

The evening sagged only in the extended medley dedicated to Vincent Youmans. There was nothing wrong with the songs themselves, but the fragmented, stop-go treatment served to underline Laine's occasional habit of treating lyrics as mere playthings. Then again her sly sense of mischief allowed her to extract the last ounce of satire from the glorious *Peel Me a Grape*, written by Dave Frishberg and popularised by Blossom Dearie. Frishberg's deft evocation of emul among the up-town socialites sounds even more timely in this age of the princess, the gym and the shopping expedition.

CLIVE DAVIS

# Back to the great daze of variety

Caitlin Moran arm-wrestles with the hefty promise of Audioweb's eclectic sonic attack

Feel that "An arm like a tree-trunk is extended across the table. Under the skin, muscles wriggle about like restless children under a duvet. It's certainly some arm. Most of us make do with a percentage of this arm. Parts of it appear to be in different time-zones."

"And I don't do nothing," Martin, Audioweb's divinely gifted singer, giggles. "I don't pick up nothing heavier than a pint. It's God's joke: he gave me the voice of a girl and the body of a Gladiator."

Unfortunately, Martin cannot extend himself to describing Audioweb's music so succinctly. This is not surprising as Audioweb, like Heinz, come in 57 different varieties. Imagine Jah Wobble on bass, the Edge on guitar and this Jekyll and Hyde figure up front, alternating between the blissful purity of McAlmont at his most lovelorn and Shabba Rankins chaunting away nineteen to the dozen.

Audioweb are a miracle-shock when you see them live for the first time. There's a real feeling that you're witness-

ing an event that you can bore your children to death with in years to come. But the furrow Audioweb plough is a fraught one.

"It is shocking how difficult it is getting press with a black guy in the band," Martin growls. "We were supposed to be getting a feature in one of the music magazines, but they pulled it because they were doing Black Grape the same week, and they said that the readers would get confused if they had two bands with black members in the same issue."

Martin's record collection reflects what seems like every trend over the past 20 years. "I started off on reggae, went into ska 'cos I liked the way it was stripped down, angular. Then I had me soul phase — not too much, y'know? A bit of a dabble." He giggles again. "And then I had me indie. A large part of my house is devoted to the Smiths. Sixties stuff — Beatles, Stones, Hollies, Jefferson Airplane. And Paul Jones. He's a bit of a hero."

"But I can't stand much of



Audioweb, with Martin on the right — "the voice of a girl, the body of a Gladiator"

what's happening now — it all sounds the same. I turn on the radio and I don't know if it's the Stone Roses or the Bluetones." I think that's what Alan Bluetone was striving for.

"All the Britpop stuff is rubbish," Martin bellows. "I know all their references, and they're not doing much with them. The only single in the past year and a half that made me sit up was *Reverend Black Grape*. Then I bought the album, and that was boring. They really wimped out. That album should have been

a rhythmic punch in the face. It was just this thing you could tap your feet to. If you were really drunk, I think they dismissed most of his peers. Martin turns to those he supports.

"Supergass are brilliant," he says. "We did Jools Holland's New Year's Eve show with them, and they were lovely. I saw Danny walking down the street a couple of weeks ago, holding this pair of trousers. He'd just come out of Top Shop and was going into Marks & Spencer. I asked him what he was doing, and he said, 'I've just

TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 481 9994

# EDUCATION

FAX:  
0171 782 7899

### EASTER REVISION

**SCHOOL CIFE**  
CONFERENCE  
AN INDEPENDENT  
AT OTHER EDUCATION

- Changing school after GCSEs?
- Unhappy about your current A Level course?
- Need Easter revision for GCSEs or A Levels?
- Want a summer course to bolster you for the coming academic year?

THEN THINK CIFE  
For objective help and advice, or for referrals to a college which could suit you...  
PHONE NOW **01233 320797**

**ACHIEVE**  
BETTER GRADES  
at MILLFIELD

A Level & GCSE  
The world's most independent  
School operates in small group  
teaching with superb facilities in  
affordable places.

In three year experience and  
in full lesson can help you  
achieve better grades...

Write to: Prof. P.  
Millfield School, Glastonbury, Somerset BA11 0PT  
TEL: 01458 445823  
FAX: 01458 445824

### COURSES

Starting each month, beginners to advanced,  
4 weeks intensive course - 15 hours/week.

## Learn Frenchfast.

For a free brochure call: 0171 723 7471.

Alliance Française de Londres  
1 Dorset Square, London NW1 6PL

### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

**Aberdeen Business School**  
**TEACHING FELLOWSHIP**  
(Ref. 583)

Aberdeen Business School has been awarded a Teaching Fellowship by the Foundation for Management Education. The broad purpose of this Fellowship is to encourage applications from experienced and well qualified managers who are interested in developing a career as management educators.

Applications are welcomed from individuals with a wide range of interests in Finance, including Business Finance, Financial Services and Corporate Financial Management.

Salary c.£17,000 per annum.  
The post is available for one year in the first instance. Assistance with removal expenses where appropriate. Informal enquiries to Mr D Sagar, Head of School, Tel (01224) 283806, E-Mail: dsagar@yru.ac.uk.  
Closing date: 23 February 1996

**MPW**  
Mander Portman Woodward  
Independent Sixth-Form Colleges

MPW teaches A level and GCSE Easter revision courses in small groups or individually. A level courses in London are exam board specific. Accommodation is available in Birmingham, Bristol and Cambridge.

MPW (London) Arts  
Tel: 0171 835 1355  
MPW (London) Sciences  
Tel: 0171 584 8555  
MPW (Birmingham)  
Tel: 0121 454 9637  
MPW (Cambridge)  
Tel: 01223 335 0158  
MPW (Bristol)  
Tel: 0117 925 5688

FOR HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
Choose a **CIFE** College

Also EASTER REVISION

Croydon	Cambridge Tutors	0181 688 5284
Golders Green	The Tutor Centre	0181 201 8020
Hendon	Albany	0181 202 5965
Holborn	Davies's	0171 430 1622
Kensal Green	Bales	0181 960 5899
Kensington	Ashbourne	0171 337 3858
Kensington	Collingham	0171 244 7414
Kensington	Lansdowne	0171 581 3307
Kensington	MPW	0171 584 8555

REGIONAL

Birmingham	MPW	0121 454 9637
Bristol	MPW	0117 925 5688
Cambridge	CCSS	01223 316800
Cambridge	MPW	01223 350 158
Harrogate	Harrogate Tutorial	01423 501041
Hove	Bellerbys	01273 723911
Market Harborough	Brooke House	01858 462452
Oxford	Cherwell	01865 242670
Oxford	Miles	01865 245172
Oxford	Oxford Tutorial	01865 723333
Rochester	Rochester Tutors	01634 628115

Learn a Language on Location!  
French • German • Spanish  
Ideal for young and old.  
A-level revision and  
general language courses in 8 centres.  
CALL NOW FOR A BROCHURE ON  
0171 723 7471

LANGUAGE COURSES  
ABROAD  
Improve your A Level Grades  
European Universities/Institutes  
EASTER and SUMMER  
FRANCE GERMANY ITALY SPAIN  
ESCORTED BY COACH  
SERVICE  
Language Links Ltd  
Beach Bays Park, Clons, Dublin 15  
CO. DUBLIN  
01752 714243

**FRENCH UNIVERSITY  
LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES**  
Academic year and Semester language progression at French universities for 1996/97.  
SORBONNE- Paris, Toulouse, Nantes, Poitiers  
Ideal for young and old.  
Summer programmes from 3-8 weeks duration.  
Immersion, General & Business French.  
Various year round courses in Bordeaux & on Côte d'Azur.  
Cambridge Educational Services  
181 Leam Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 3JL  
Tel: 01273 228261

**STUDY LANGUAGES  
IN EUROPE**  
Language courses abroad for business  
or pleasure. 8 ages - including  
GCSE & A LEVELS IN EUROPE.  
We can help you find the course to meet  
your personal requirements.  
888 Lat. West Wick,  
CO. Wick, Ireland  
Tel: 01904 228044, Fax: 01904 228044

**Kensington Park School**  
FOUNDED 1988  
An Independent Secondary Day  
School for boys and girls  
Principal: Richard Walker BSc CChem MRSC PGCE  
071-221 5748  
10 Pembroke Square London W2 4ED

**WARDEN  
required**  
Bournemouth area, for  
Slovenian student  
accommodation. Must  
be able to  
communicate fluently  
in Slovenian and  
English. Please Reply  
to Box No 3317.

**Windlesham House**  
Saturday  
24th February  
1996  
10am - 12noon

**Open Morning**

IAPS  
Boarding  
Co-Ed Prep  
School for  
7-13 year olds.

For details, contact:  
The Registrar, Windlesham House School,  
Washington, Pulborough, W. Sussex, RH20 4AY  
Tel: (01903) 873207 Fax: (01903) 873017  
Regd. Charity No. 307046

**EASTER REVISION  
at CATS**

With examinations fast approaching, an intensive programme of revision and exam preparation, in small groups, helps students succeed at GCSE and A Level.

Tel: 01223 314431  
Cambridge Arts & Sciences  
Round Church Street  
Cambridge CB5 8AD

**ABBEY  
TUTORIAL COLLEGE  
CAMBRIDGE**

Science & Mathematics  
**Easter Revision**  
Accommodation available  
01223 328686

**EPFL**  
ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE  
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE  
SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY - LAUSANNE  
(EPFL)

Invite applications for the position of  
**Professor of  
Applied Analysis**  
in the Department of Mathematics.

The teaching duties will include introductory and advanced courses for students of engineering as well as students of mathematics. A desire to teach at all university levels is a requirement.

The successful candidate is expected to carry out excellent interdisciplinary research in one or several areas of applied analysis. Preference will be given to candidates more of the engineering groups at EPFL such as mechanical engineering, telecommunications or computer science.

Applicants should have demonstrated their ability to carry out and to direct high level research projects.

Applications from women are particularly welcome.

Deadline for applications: May 31, 1996  
Preferred start date: as mutually convenient

The application form can be obtained by writing to: Prédilection de l'École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, CE-Sciences, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland.

**DEVONSHIRE  
HOUSE SCHOOL**  
SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

The School is for boys and girls from two and a half to thirteen years of age. A scholarship is offered for entry to the school in September 1996. Candidates must reach their eighth birthday in the year prior to 1st September 1996.

The Scholarship Examination will be held on Wednesday 6th March 1996.

For further information and an application form, please contact the Admissions Secretary, Devonshire House School, 2 Arkwright Road, Hampstead, London NW3 6AD.  
Tel: 0171-435 1916.

**EASTER REVISION  
with the  
CHIEF EXAMINERS!**

To find out more about our intensive Easter Revision & one & two year Courses, phone:  
**0171-581 3307**

**LANSDOWNE**  
INDEPENDENT SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

**EXAM  
TECHNIQUES**  
Easter Revision at Oxford University  
• A Level / GCSE  
• A, B or C grade preparation  
• Intensive practical preparation  
• Mock exams & Personalized Tutoring  
• Also at Birmingham, Cardiff, Manchester & Portsmouth  
• Preparation for IB, A-levels, Cambridge, CSE, BTEC, etc.  
(01865) 888141 or  
(01963) 822225

**KINGSTON  
UNIVERSITY**  
Quality Course Quality Education

**LECTURESHIPS**

**INTENSIVE EASTER REVISION**  
Our highly successful courses offer small group and 1-1 tuition in study and exam skills as well as most 'A' level and GCSE syllabuses.  
EXPERIENCED TUTORS WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS

**Surrey College**  
CALL (01483) 565887/300057  
St Michael's House, Worplesdon Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4AF

**MAKE THE  
GRADE**  
'A' LEVEL &  
G.C.S.E.  
EASTER  
REVISION  
Oxford Tutorial  
College  
16 Gloucester Street  
Oxford OX1 2BN  
Tel: (01865) 793333  
Fax: (01865) 793233

**UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD**

in association with Pembroke College  
University Lecturership in  
Criminal Justice

Applications are invited for the above post, which is tenable from 1 October 1996 or as soon as possible thereafter. The university stipend will be on the agreed scale, currently £15,154 - £28,215 per annum. The successful candidate for the post may be offered a tutorial fellowship in Law at Pembroke College for which additional emoluments will be available. The successful candidate, who will have expertise in both social sciences and law, will be expected to take an active part in the work of the Centre for Criminological Research. The position offers attractive opportunities for research as well as teaching.

Further particulars, giving details of the duties and full range of emoluments and allowances attaching to both the university and the college posts, may be obtained from the Director, Centre for Criminological Research, 12 Bevington Road, Oxford OX2 6LJ. Applications (ten copies, one from candidates overseas, naming two referees who should be asked to write directly, and including one piece of published work, should be sent to the Director. Applications and references should arrive not later than 8 March 1996.

The University seeks to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer.

**ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE  
OXFORD**

Kobe Institute

St Catherine's College, Oxford seeks applications for the post of Academic Director for its Institute in Kobe, Japan. The task of the Director is to develop an academic programme which will foster international academic and interdisciplinary exchange with Japan. A knowledge of Japanese and the ability to establish a network with academic and industrial organizations is required.

The post will be for three years in the first instance and will carry a Fellowship at St Catherine's College. Salary negotiable at £40,000 pa plus living allowance and free accommodation and modest while working in Japan.

Applicants should contact the Master's Secretary (01865-271697) for further particulars. The closing date for applications is 1 March 1996.

The College seeks to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer.

**ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE  
ADDRESSED TO: BOX No.**

c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS  
P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST,  
LONDON, E1 9GA

**EASTER REVISION  
SUMMER RESULTS**

- GCSE Specialists.
- A-level Maths & Science.
- Help with Exam Stress.

**DUFF MILLER**  
59 Queensgate London SW7 5JP  
Tel: 0171 225 0577

**INDEPENDENT EDUCATION**

LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL ?  
*Which School? 1996*

The 71st edition of the comprehensive directory of independent schools throughout the UK. Complete with free quick-reference computer disk. Available from leading bookshops or direct from the publishers.

Price £8.95 plus postage ISBN 1-859843-43-6  
John Catt Educational Ltd  
Great Gableton, Swindon, Wiltshire SN11 2DR  
Tel: 01728 663666 Fax: 01728 663415

**Oxford  
Easter Courses**  
Non profit-making educational courses  
1ST/2ND YEAR A LEVEL REVISION  
Conventional or Modular Systems  
Fully Residential at St Hilda's College  
March 30th-April 4th and April 9th-April 14th  
High quality courses run by an ex-A level candidate for A level students only. Full board, single rooms, specialist tutors.  
Tel: (01865) 811617 (24 hrs)  
98 Southcombe Road, Oxford, OX2 6ED

**NUFFIELD COLLEGE  
OXFORD**

Gwynn Gibbon Research Fellowship  
Applications are invited from men and women, presently with experience of one of the public services, wishing to undertake a year's research into, or study of, a problem in the field of government and administration. The Fellowship carries accommodation, some secretarial services, and reimbursement of necessary expenses, but normally no stipend. In exceptional cases a supplementary stipend is payable.

Further particulars from the Admissions Secretary, Nuffield College, Oxford OX1 1NF. Closing date Monday 22 April 1996.

The College seeks to promote excellence in education and research.

**DAVIES LAING & DICK**  
1996 Sixth Form Entry

Wide range of A Level subjects +  
Film Making, Drama, Sport, Photography  
Foreign Languages at Work

Phone for a prospectus and appointment to visit DLD.  
The college is open during the school holidays.

**DLD**  
10 PEMBRIDGE SQUARE, LONDON W2 4ED  
Tel: 0171 727 2797

**TEACHER**  
Small friendly Language  
School near Warsaw needs  
teacher to start late  
February. Details on  
receipt of C.V from Mr S  
Frost, 13 Clonsara Lane,  
Croyde, Braunton, Devon  
EX38 1NG

**HOME STUDY FOR  
EVERYONE**  
Over 100 GCSE, A-Level,  
Professional & Leisure  
courses.

**RAPID RESULTS COLLEGE**  
Telephone Dept HE312  
for free Prospectus  
0181 947 7272

**THE TIMES**  
**THE SUNDAY TIMES**  
1996 FORTHCOMING  
EDUCATION FEATURES

**EASTER REVISION COURSES**  
Every Friday February  
Every Sunday February

**DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES**  
Sunday 11th February

**POSTGRADUATE COURSES**  
Friday 23rd February (Supplement)  
Sunday 25th February

**INDEPENDENT EDUCATION**  
Friday 23rd February

**SUMMER SCHOOLS**  
Friday 8th March  
Sunday 10th March

**MBA / BUSINESS COURSES**  
Friday 15th March  
Sunday 17th March

**LAW COURSES**  
Friday 22nd March  
Sunday 24th March

**PART-TIME COURSES**  
Friday 29th March  
Sunday 31st March

For further information about these  
features or to advertise please contact  
**Simon Mallinson**  
Tel: 0171 481 9994  
Fax: 0171 782 7899

# EDUCATION

## Will the heads play Labour's tune?

Tony Evans looks at the strategic options for independent schools

Whether the general election occurs this year or next, it is already clear that each political party sees education as a central issue in its manifesto. Indeed, it seems likely to play a more important role than in any election for more than 30 years and it is no surprise that parties now propose initiatives, such as "fast-tracking", with greater frequency than coherence.

Independent schools are intensely sensitive to this rash of conflicting proposals but it can no longer be assumed that such schools represent, as they did in the past, a safe Tory constituency. The past ten years have been characterised by a series of pragmatic accretions in educational policy, rather than by structural consistency, and those committed to the values of independent schools may well consider all politicians' rhetoric with unprecedented scepticism in the months ahead.

In this they will not be alone, for they share many of the concerns of governors, parents and staff in the maintained sector. Yet independent schools have specific preoccupations against which they will judge the plethora of political intentions.

What might these preoccupations be and how might independent schools react? It may seem a truism that independent schools value above all their independence, as do the parents of their pupils. At all costs that principle will be defended in at least five domains.

First, there is resentment of increasingly intrusive bureaucracy. This has been appreciable and few heads would affirm that it has helped to improve standards. The



A music lesson at King Edward VI High School for Girls, Birmingham. Schools such as this will fight to retain their independence from political intrusion

independent school thrives only if its critical parent body approves of its ethos and provision. It is therefore vital that heads and governors have the freedom to develop their schools in ways which they believe help pupils to succeed. Intrusive bureaucracy erodes independence, as epitomised by the misguided format of the Department for Education's examination statistics, which distort and undervalue achievement, or the rigid requirements on registration, which give no credence to the local intelligence of responsible heads.

Secondly, independent schools will look hard at any threat of curricular erosion or dogmatism. Will a future Labour government require independent schools to observe the national curriculum in its every detail and at each key stage? Will testing be imposed? Will it modify, in the wake of the imminent Dearing proposals, or Labour's plans, a national 14-19 provision in ways with which independent schools can be at ease? Over recent years independent schools have been vindicated in resisting inchoate or precipitous

curricular change; they mainly welcomed the principle of a national curriculum but gave warning against the complex folly with which it was implemented some five years ago. The defence of separate sciences, of classics, of English literature, of mathematics and modern languages, opposition to modish cross-curricular themes and reservations about elaborate testing have underlined the salutary vision of independent schools. They will not compromise their academic values and freedom.

They would be unwise to barter such freedom against even assisted places, their third area of concern. The assisted places scheme, often accused of elitism, is in the social sense the exact opposite. Should a Labour government abolish the scheme or phase it out, as it is committed to do, most schools offering assisted places will remain comfortably viable. Some may choose to decrease in size but, ironically, social division will be increased, not reduced.

That will sadden independent schools, all of which seek to widen opportunity and access. Even at this stage they hope a Labour government would seek to draw strength from independent schools and devise an alternative scheme in partnership which reconciles their independence with a range of admissions across the social spectrum on the basis of need. The experience, academic and extracurricular diversity and proven quality of so many independent schools could be used imaginatively by a Labour government. This could profitably extend to boarding schools and is already reflected in

the steadily increasing number of places taken by local education authorities whose own schools cannot meet the full range of children's needs. Fourthly, independent schools will defend resolutely their charitable status. Schools have interpreted their charitable purposes generously through bursaries, support to local communities, to the young, underprivileged and disabled through provision of sporting, musical and theatrical facilities, teacher training courses and, not least, their provision of educated, disciplined citizens.

Two thirds of independent schools report the use of facilities by community groups and nearly a quarter by maintained schools. Were charitable status removed, fees would rise but the effect, particularly in the urban day schools, would be to narrow the social base of the intake precisely where it should be enlarged. Education is a charitable activity *per se*. Why should a Labour government not extend charitable status to all schools?

A fifth area of concern lies with the independent inspection scheme. HMC and GSA have devised systems of inspection which are demanding and which seek to ensure that schools of the highest proven quality are further, and continuously, improved. In this domain the Labour Party is wise to acknowledge the strengths of independent inspections accredited by Ofsted. Independent schools would not lightly surrender their stringent and appropriate systems. Independent schools are an integral part of education. They do not wish to be an enclave of privilege but to contribute to national prosperity. They seek co-operation not confrontation with government. In the five areas of concern outlined there is ample scope for respect, progress and positive partnership.   
The author is Headmaster of Portsmouth Grammar School and chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference.

Susan Elkin finds that good primary schools exist outside Ofsted's roll of honour; Mary Ann Sieghart can't wait for the test results

### Cecil Road, a highway to understanding

Cecil Road County Primary School is a huge former board school built in 1909 and tucked tightly into narrow, car-lined backstreets in Gravesend, Kent. It is oversubscribed and of its 400 children about 40 per cent, predominantly Sikhs, are bilingual.

Several things strike the visitor immediately. Plants in tubs bloom on the edges of the steps to the entrance. Posted on the door are several notices stressing partnership and parental involvement. Strains of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony are audible in the distance. Otherwise, it is very quiet. Beautiful examples of children's art hang everywhere.

You begin to sense something special even before you see a pupil. As pairs of tiny children, all neatly uniformed, come to the secretary on errands or with messages, your first impression is confirmed.

The present school was formed in 1989 from the merger of three separate schools. The former junior, infant and nursery had only 200 children on roll between them. Andy Sparks, the head, says: "My motto is that you have to get the best out of what you've got. I believe in thinking positively. Take our cricket team. We haven't even got a pitch. We practise in the playground and our boys have just won a championship for the fourth consecutive year."

"And I don't complain about

money," Mr Sparks adds. "I was an accountant before I came into education and I know how to get the best out of resources."

Classes are impressively orderly. Every child I met was purposefully getting on with something. Two were having a violin lesson. Another group was being taught music sitting on the floor around the teacher, the pupils concentrating intently.

A class of six-year-olds were all in their places working quietly. Even the nursery class was playing outside in an unusually disciplined and structured way. "I believe discipline is vital," Mr Sparks says. "Without it there is no learning environment."

Kamal Cox works with bilingual children to develop their English language skills. She also visits parents at home and provides an informal interpretation/translation service. "I have never heard anyone mention racial difference in this school except in a positive, celebratory way," Mrs Cox says.

It is for the management of its rich cultural diversity that the school is most remarkable. There are two ways of approaching racial integration. You can either make a complicated and self-defeating business of positive discrimination measures, or you can simply be natural and build real lasting equality—as Cecil Road does.



A lesson in tolerance: the children of Cecil Road

Doreen Deakin, the grandmother of a pupil, says: "In this school everyone is welcome and everyone is important. The school is part of the community and the community is part of the school. It has changed local attitudes to racial diversity."

Mrs Deakin believes the school "doesn't receive the accolades it deserves for what it does". Earlier this year the school was nominated for a national Citizenship Award for Celebrating Diversity. Out of 170 schools, Cecil Road was shortlisted to the last three, along with a Yorkshire grammar school and a Manchester high school. As joint runner-up Cecil Road knew that it was effectively the top primary school in the country.

Mr Sparks and one of his staff went last summer to Manchester to receive the award. He believes it was a fitting end to his first five years at Cecil Road. It is encouraging in these days when we are told so often of racial "incidents" and tensions to hear Mrs Deakin say: "The children celebrate Christmas, Easter, Diwali, Chinese new year and Jewish festivals. They are taught to understand each other's cultures. There is an obvious partnership between children, parents, headmaster, teachers, parents, governors and the local community."

Laura Joyce, nine, has the last word: "The really good thing about this school is that we've got all sorts of different people. There are Irish, English, and lots from other countries and they all get on well together."

When I heard that Gillian Shephard planned to introduce league tables of primary schools this autumn, my first reaction was one of fury. Not because I disapprove of rankings, or because I think they tell me nothing, but because they come a critical few months too late.

My elder daughter starts school this September. What I would give to be able to see, now, a league table of 11-year-old test results for all the schools in my London borough and its neighbours. As a journalist, I am professionally trained to conduct research. But never have I spent so much time researching a subject to so little avail.

How are parents to determine whether a primary school is suitable for their child? In rural areas, the answer is simple: all the local parents send their children to the same school and word of mouth will suffice. In big cities, however, the choice is huge and the task correspondingly much harder. In my borough, Hammersmith and Fulham, there are 25 primary schools. Add in a couple of its neighbours, and the potential choice rises to 90.

So what could be simpler? I could call just three local education authorities and ask them to send me a list of test results for the schools in their area. But no, I was told, they were not allowed to do so. How about a batch of inspection reports? No, they have to be elicited from each individual school. And even then, some schools are reluctant to put them in the post. Ofsted, meanwhile, has inspected hardly any of them.

So then I tried ringing a couple of the better secondary schools in the area to ask which feeder schools they could recommend. Apparently nothing could be more invidious than to pass judgment on individual schools. Each time, from each expert, I was told: ask other parents. The trouble is, most of the parents I know send their children to private schools. This is, perhaps, a problem peculiar to the London middle classes. But it is a big problem. The only ones I managed to contact, through friends of friends of friends, had sent their children to the schools in question before the current head teacher had taken over. None could tell me what the new regimes were like.

So my husband and I determined to find out for ourselves. We had narrowed the choice down to three schools, but in a fairly haphazard, hearsay-dependent way.

### Bring on league tables now to end school lottery

your "pushiness" to deter the school from offering your child a place. But there are so many questions to be asked. Nor is it often possible to elicit a sensible response. I tried non-leading questions, such as "Where would you place your school on the spectrum between traditional and progressive teaching methods?" I usually received a

meaningless answer, such as "Somewhere in the middle" or "A bit of both". If I asked "Do you tend to agree or disagree with Chris Woodhead?", I would be told: "Some of his views I agree with, others I don't." If I asked whether they used whole-class teaching or phonics, they replied: "Good teaching requires a mix of different methods." All true, but not exactly informative.

Never have I had to take such an important decision on the basis of so little information. The choice we make will affect the schooling not just of our elder daughter but of her younger sister too, who will follow her a year later. Is this really what the Government means by parental choice?

So my husband and I determined to find out for ourselves. We had narrowed the choice down to three schools, but in a fairly haphazard, hearsay-dependent way.

At one school, we had the opportunity of a full interview with the headmaster, in which he patiently answered a myriad of questions. In another, the headmistress could be contacted only during a parents' tour, as she showed us and ten other prospective parents around. At the third, we had a brief chat with the headmaster in the company of many other parents before two children showed us round. When other parents are there, you feel bad about monopolising the head teacher, partly on their behalf, and also because you do not want

seriously, but what is the quality threshold that half of primary schools and two fifths of secondaries fail to meet? How do schools know which half they are in?

The dominance of statistics has obvious dangers, well illustrated by the counter-intuitive measures Mr Woodhead chose to omit from this week's report. Once they give the wrong message, the only option is to find another statistic. The annual charade over GCSE and A-level results is another example, when falling pass rates are taken to mean failure but improvement automatically means lower examination standards. Judging educational performance is notoriously difficult and often subjective. Perhaps we should accept that and take inspectors' word for it if they find that standards are slipping.

## Lies, damned lies and education statistics

We should take the inspectors' word for it if they find that standards are slipping, not rely on figures, says John O'Leary

Throughout the 1990s, Chief Inspectors of Schools have reported that one lesson in three was badly taught in English schools. Tony Blair even used the statistic (wrongly) when he launched Labour's latest education policy.

This year, the figure was mysteriously absent from the Chris Woodhead's annual report. Instead, we were told that half of primary schools and two fifths of secondaries needed to improve.

Why the change of measure? Presumably because the proportion of poor lessons is now 20 per cent, an apparent improvement at a time when concern over standards has seldom been higher.

The biggest change is in the four years of Key Stage 2, from seven to 11, by common consent the area of the curriculum that arouses greatest

concern. Last year 30 per cent of lessons were unsatisfactory; this year it is down to 21 per cent.

Unless there has been dramatic improvement which Mr Woodhead is ignoring, the only possible explanations are that earlier estimates were exaggerated, or Ofsted inspectors are more easily satisfied than Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

Last month's test results hardly support the improvement theory, but even they have their critics. Education officers in Hampshire have discovered that up to 1,000 low-achievers, who took easier tests as well as those for pupils of higher ability, have been counted twice. The

result, which is likely to be repeated nationally, is that mathematics and science scores for the county were underestimated by 2 per cent.

The science results already stood out: while fewer than half of 11-year-olds reached their expected level in English and mathematics, in science, the subject said to pose most problems for primary teachers, the "pass rate" was 70 per cent. The obvious conclusion is that if all the tests had been set at the same standard as science we would have been celebrating a success story, not criticising primary schools.

Ofsted's explanation for the apparent improvement at Key Stage 2 is the

size of the sample. Now that the inspection cycle for primary schools is in full swing, data from more than 1,000 reports was available, compared with only 80 last year.

But, in that case, was it a responsible use of statistics to pass judgment previously on an entire age group on the basis of so few inspections? And how small was the sample in previous years?

The demand for statistics is now such that perfectly valid judgments are taken seriously only if they have a figure attached. Mr Woodhead is in an unenviable position to tell whether standards are satisfactory in English schools. His verdict must be taken

The best guide to graduate study

Higher Education in the UK: Graduate Courses 1996-97

graduate courses

1996-97

Now in its second edition, *Graduate Courses 1996-97* is available now. Compiled and up dated using information supplied by the higher education institutions to their own controlling bodies, making it the most comprehensive guide available for students.

Direct orders to: Pitman Publishing, Marketing Department (Yearbooks), 128 Long Acre, London WC2E 6AN or fax your order on 0171 240 5771

Save time order by telephone on 0171 379 7333 quoting reference YA505

ISBN 1 85271 20 1: A4 Format £26.95 plus £3 p.p.

PITMAN PUBLISHING

هكذا فان الامم

TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 481 9994

# EDUCATION

FAX:  
0171 782 7899

### POSTS

**THE ALICE OTTLEY SCHOOL**  
GSA Day School

Senior School 575 girls 10-18 years  
(144 girls in Sixth Form)  
Junior Department 144 girls 3-9 years

**DIRECTOR OF STUDIES**

Required for September 1996

To assist the Headmistress in the management and development of the curriculum, and play a key role in the Senior Management team. Applicants should be successful graduate teachers with experience of curriculum and timetable management as well as excellent organisational and interpersonal skills.

Salary: Alice Ottley Senior Management Scale

Please apply by handwritten letter, with full c.v. and s.a.e. giving the names of two referees, to: The Headmistress, The Alice Ottley School, Upper Tything, Worcester, WR1 1HW.

Closing date: Friday, 1st March

*The Alice Ottley School, an Independent Girls' School, exists to provide education in Worcester.*

**BENENDEN SCHOOL**  
**DEPUTY HEAD (PASTORAL)**

We seek for this senior residential position a lively person with administrative and pastoral ability and a strong commitment to boarding and girls' education.

The Deputy Head (Pastoral) carries responsibility for the management of residential life and pastoral care of the School, and is responsible for leading a team of nine Housemistresses/masters. The holder of this post reports directly to the Headmistress.

Applications should be made to the Headmistress by Wednesday, 14 February 1996. This is a readvertisement and previous candidates need not apply. Further details and an application form may be obtained from:

Gillian duCharme, Headmistress, Benenden School, Cranbrook Kent TN17 4AA  
Telephone (01580) 240592 Fax (01580) 240750

*Benenden School (Kent) Ltd is a registered charity founded for the provision of education to 440 girls aged 11-18 years, all boarding.*

**PRINCIPAL INDEPENDENT COLLEGE**

**The Challenge**

Knowledge is now the key resource and the future belongs to those who know how to learn and can confidently apply their skills in a rapidly changing world. We are an established college of 450 16+ students and we are looking for a Principal who will help us to continue to build a model of life-long learning for the new millennium. Helping students become effective people, effective learners and effective performers is our key purpose.

**The Person**

You will have had significant leadership and senior management experience in either education or training. You will be able to maintain the right balance between the mission and mercenary objectives of the college. You will have had substantial experience in marketing as well as the process of learning. Most importantly you will have the qualities to inspire and lead teams to meet our common purpose.

The rewards will be high for the person who can help us achieve our aim. Please write to Hugh Templeton, Lansdowne, 9 Palace Gate, London, W8 5LS enclosing details about yourself including reasons why you feel you are the person for the job.

### EASTER REVISION

**ABBNEY TUTORIAL COLLEGE**

**BIRMINGHAM**  
All Subjects  
0121 236 7474

**CAMBRIDGE**  
Maths & Sciences  
01223 328686

**LONDON**  
Maths & Sciences  
0171 229 5928

**MANCHESTER**  
All Subjects  
0161 236 6836

**A Level & GCSE**

Accommodation available

**HMC MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

This post falls vacant on 31st August 1997 with the retirement of Roger Griffiths after nine years service. The successful candidate is likely to be a serving or recently retired head.

Applications should be made by 28th February 1996 to the Hon. Treasurer of HMC, Bryanston School, Blandford, Dorset DT11 0PX

Applications should be made by 28th February 1996 to the Hon. Treasurer of HMC, Bryanston School, Blandford, Dorset DT11 0PX

**UNIVERSITY OF EXETER**

**MODULAR BPhil(Ed)/MEd DEGREE**

Courses for Teachers, including one-graduate. Each module begins with a weekend in Exeter followed by either semi-distance learning or study in local centres.

a) Maths Education  
b) Professional Studies in Education  
c) Special Educational Needs

Contact: CPD Office, University of Exeter, School of Education, Haverstock Road, Exeter EX1 2LU.  
Tel: (01392) 264828; Fax: (01392) 264810; e-mail: c.henderson@exeter.ac.uk

*Promoting Excellence in Education & Research*

**UNIQUE APPROACH TO PASSING 'A' LEVELS & GCSE'S**

**ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS WITH CHIEF EXAMINERS**

H.C. BOCK EXAMS ASSESSED BY SENIOR EXAMINERS

London & Manchester, through the Easter Holidays  
0171-5814866

All Box number replies should be addressed to:  
BOX No. 100  
C/O The Times  
Newspapers  
P.O. BOX 3553,  
Virginia Street,  
London E1 9DA

**STUDY AT HOME**

**GUARANTEED SUCCESS**

For details of our 100+ courses, send or phone NOW for your FREE RRC Prospectus.

I am interested in:  
 Professional Qualifications  
 GCSE/A Levels  
 Leisure Courses

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: The Rapid Results College, Dept HE312, Tutor House, 25/27 St. George's Road, London SW15 4DS.  
Tel: 0181 947 7272 Fax: 0181 946 7584

**UNIVERSITY OF EXETER**

**MODULAR BPhil(Ed)/MEd DEGREE**

Courses for Teachers, including one-graduate. Each module begins with a weekend in Exeter followed by either semi-distance learning or study in local centres.

a) Maths Education  
b) Professional Studies in Education  
c) Special Educational Needs

Contact: CPD Office, University of Exeter, School of Education, Haverstock Road, Exeter EX1 2LU.  
Tel: (01392) 264828; Fax: (01392) 264810; e-mail: c.henderson@exeter.ac.uk

*Promoting Excellence in Education & Research*

**UNIVERSITY OF EXETER**

**MODULAR BPhil(Ed)/MEd DEGREE**

Courses for Teachers, including one-graduate. Each module begins with a weekend in Exeter followed by either semi-distance learning or study in local centres.

a) Maths Education  
b) Professional Studies in Education  
c) Special Educational Needs

Contact: CPD Office, University of Exeter, School of Education, Haverstock Road, Exeter EX1 2LU.  
Tel: (01392) 264828; Fax: (01392) 264810; e-mail: c.henderson@exeter.ac.uk

*Promoting Excellence in Education & Research*

### DISTANCE LEARNING

**John's 32.**  
He lives in Berkshire.  
He holds a high position in his company.  
But it's not high enough.  
He's the perfect candidate for Distance Learning of the Electronic Campus of the University of Paisley.

The Electronic Campus of the University of Paisley uses new generation techniques of computer networking, remote computer access, e-mail systems and multi-media facilities to provide the highest levels of direct support to all course participants. Study in your own time, at your own pace and enjoy a genuinely enjoyable learning experience with close interactive links with fellow students and course leaders - wherever you are in the country.

ENROL NOW ON ONE OF OUR NEW COURSES COMMENCING APRIL 1996.

MBA IN MARKETING  
MBA IN QUALITY MANAGEMENT  
MSC IN QUALITY MANAGEMENT  
MSC IN COMPUTER AIDED ENGINEERING

**UNIVERSITY OF PAISLEY**

FOR DETAILS CONTACT: DEPT. S.T. UNIVERSITY OF PAISLEY, DISTANCE LEARNING UNIT, 190H STREET PAISLEY, PA1 2SE. TELEPHONE: 0141 648 8500 FAX: 0141 648 2947. EMAIL: R.H.KRAMSAY@PAISLEY.AC.UK

*University of Paisley is a provider of higher education committed to achieving excellence in teaching and research.*

**Distance Learning**

**The Leicester MBA**

Our course provides a stimulating and intellectually challenging management development programme. It will develop your ability to think analytically and strategically.

With your choice of full time (1 yr) or distance learning, a minimum of 2 yrs, you can benefit from a course that recognizes the need for flexible learning and enables you to develop your career.

Also available: MSc in Finance, MSc in Marketing, Diploma in Management, Certificate in Management.

For information on fees and a range of other personal development programmes contact our Quality Reference 0201

Freephone 0800 374824 (24 hour) fax 01203 429243

Resource Development International, Freepost CV2472, Coventry CV4 6BR. eMail: info@rdi.co.uk  
http://www.rdi.co.uk/rdi/

**A JOB FOR LIFE**

After a few weeks' study you could be a freelance proofreader or copy editor. Proofreaders work on books for many leading publishers. Chapterhouse's courses are well respected and you are assigned an experienced tutor who assesses your work. All courses advise on marketing and are certified. Cost is from \$40. Prospectus from: CHAPTERHOUSE, 2 Southborough West, Exeter, EX1 1JG. Tel: 01392 499488

**RRC**

Tel: 0181 947 7272

**STUDY AT HOME**

**GUARANTEED SUCCESS**

For details of our 100+ courses, send or phone NOW for your FREE RRC Prospectus.

I am interested in:  
 Professional Qualifications  
 GCSE/A Levels  
 Leisure Courses

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: The Rapid Results College, Dept HE312, Tutor House, 25/27 St. George's Road, London SW15 4DS.  
Tel: 0181 947 7272 Fax: 0181 946 7584

**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER FACULTY OF LAW**

The International Centre offers two post-graduate distance learning programmes which enable you to combine work with study over a two year period. Both are examined by continuous assessment.

**LAW AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS**  
M.A./LL.M. and Diploma  
Focus - Employment Law

- New forms of work
- The contract of employment
- Discrimination and equal opportunities
- Employee relations
- Termination and unfair dismissal
- Redundancy and transfers
- Collective bargaining
- Industrial conflict law

Enquiries for September 1996 to Fiona Gelling, Course Administrator, quoting reference number L-T-296 on 0116 252 2371.

**EUROPEAN MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT LAW**  
LL.M./M.A.  
Focus - European Community Law

- Aims and objectives of the Community
- Institutions and procedures of the Community
- Free movement of goods, capital, services and people
- Competition policy
- Labour law and social policy
- Consumer protection environment policy

Enquiries for October 1996 to Susan Thomson, Course Administrator, quoting reference number E-T-296 on 0116 252 2346.

**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MANAGEMENT, LAW AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**  
University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH, UK. Fax No. 0116 2522699

Promoting excellence in University teaching and research

**THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES 1994**

**Leicester University**

Established in 1966, the Centre for Mass Communication Research (CMCR) is one of the world's oldest, best known centres of media scholarship.

**MA IN MASS COMMUNICATIONS**  
by Distance Learning

This is a part-time, 2 year distance learning course. High quality course material with occasional (voluntary) day and weekend schools. Courses commence April and September.

Assessment is by assignment, examination and dissertation. Candidates should hold good honours degree or equivalent. Applicants with relevant professional experience and those just graduating will also be considered. Candidates for whom English is not a first language should have evidence of good proficiency in English.

For course brochure and application forms, contact Jane Walker, quoting ref DL/T/296, CMCR, University of Leicester, 194 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7LT, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 116 252 5275. Fax: +44 (0) 116 252 5276.

Promoting excellence in University teaching and research

**THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES 1994**

**I will be a writer...**

Home study, full time and evening classes for Writing and Journalism.

**THE LONDON SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM**  
FBI, 22 Upbrook Mews, London W42 3HG Tel: 0171 708 3790 Fax: 0171 708 3780

1921 ABCC 75 years of teaching success ODLGC 1986

**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED CHIROPODY AS A REDUNDANCY PROOF PROFESSION?**

Worried about your future or wanting a change? You can qualify for a rewarding career as a Chiropractor/Practitioner in the much sought after private sector. You study in your spare time without first leaving your current job and complete your practical training during your holidays. AGE IS NO BARRIER.

- We have successfully trained since 1919, continuously for 77 years, being the oldest training school in the private sector where we are much respected. There is no other body able to match our success rate or methods.
- THE COST? Not expensive for a new career which earns you an excellent life style and respect. With full business procedures for a successful practice.
- Upon qualifying you will be eligible to join the largest and most respected professional body in the private sector. THE BRITISH CHIROPODY & PODIATRY ASSOCIATION. See Yellow Pages.
- You may be eligible for a grant for full or part-time courses.

Write or telephone now for FREE Prospectus to: THE SCHOOL OF CHIROPODY & PODIATRY MEDICINE THE SMAE Institute, Dept. IT, The New Hall, 149 Bath Road, Uxbridge, Bucks SL6 4LA (01828) 21100 (24hrs) or 22449 (9am - 5pm only)

**Romance Writing**

A Diploma Course you can study from home and make Romance Writing a new career or profitable second income. Phone for your Free Prospectus.

Free 0800 371 500

**MORRIS**  
COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM

**MAKE MONEY WITH YOUR CARTOONS**

Study cartooning and illustration from home for a new career or profitable second income.

Free 0800 371 500

**MORRIS**  
COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM

**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**  
Centre for Research into Sport and Society

M.Sc. in the Sociology of Sport and Sports Management (by distance learning)

Did you know that you can now study for a Masters degree from a world renowned University sports research centre?

The Centre for Research into Sport and Society offers talented professional, practical educationalists and those with an interest in sport the opportunity to study from home on the unique 2 year, part-time course. Course materials include comprehensive readings and video lectures from over one hundred international experts, presented in a format tailored to meet a wide variety of interests and needs.

The Centre also offers a campus-based, one year, full-time MA/Diploma in the Sociology of Sport.

For further details write to:  
The Secretary (IT)  
CRSS, University of Leicester,  
14 Sabley Road, Leicester LE1 7RQ  
Tel: 0116 252 5828, Fax: 0116 252 6720

*"Promoting excellence in University teaching and research"*

**LLB or Dip Law**

Full-Time, Part-Time, Home-Study

- Next full-time course: October 1996
- Degree level admission reduces course length
- Diploma scheme enables you to take one subject at a time

**HOLBORN COLLEGE**  
BRITAIN'S BEST COURSES

Choice and flexibility  
Value for money  
Realistic entry for mature students  
Transfers from other universities accepted with advanced standing

For further information contact the Registrar, Holborn College, Dept T, 200 Greyhound Road, London W14 9BT  
Telephone 0171 385 3577 Fax 0171 381 3377

Accredited courses recognised by the Law Society and the Bar

**BE A SUCCESSFUL WRITER**

Make money writing and earn while you learn. The Writing School, founded in 1949, shows you how to write articles, short stories, novels, romances, radio and TV scripts that sell and keep on selling. You simply follow the School's comprehensive home-study courses.

Top professional writers give you individual tuition and also provide personal advice on selling your articles and stories to publishers, who are always on the lookout for exciting new talent.

And you can't lose! If you have not recovered the cost of your tuition by the time you have completed your course, your fees will be refunded.

Please write for our FREE book, "Writing for Pleasure and Profit", and details of our FREE 15-day trial offer. No stamp needed.

FREE CALL 0800 282 468 (24 hour service)

**THE WRITING SCHOOL (ST014)**  
FREEPOST: TMC014, REDHILL RH1 6BR

**LONDON MONTESSORI TRAIN TO TEACH**

**JOB'S AVAILABLE FOR OUR GRADUATES**

- Diploma Courses leading to B. Ed.
- Full-Time and Part-Time Montessori Courses
- Montessori Correspondence Courses start NOW
- Early Learning materials & books available by Mail Order

**OPEN EVENINGS EVERY MONTH**

Call for details 0171 493 0165 or write Dept T

**LONDON MONTESSORI CENTRE**  
16 BALDWIN ST. LONDON, W1T 1TG.

**Exam Success**  
with the National Extension College

- 'A' level, GCSE & career courses
- Flexible home study
- Exam guarantee

For free guide to courses call  
**01223 316644**

Dept GT702, NEC, 18 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2HN

**DAVIES LAING & DICK**

**EASTER REVISION at DLD**

A comprehensive range of courses at A Level and GCSE

Over 60 years of success

**0171 727 2797**

10 Pembridge Square, London, W2 4ED





# Crystal Palace keep Lewington Bassett leaps back on managerial merry-go-round

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

DAVE BASSETT gladly accepted one of the most precarious jobs in football — the managership of Crystal Palace — yesterday. He thus renews his acquaintance with Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, whose vigorous, hands-on approach has so often led to conflict with employees.



Bassett: ground rules

Bassett, 51, first laid out his ground rules before agreeing a 2½-year contract at the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club. "I'm no puppet for anyone," he said. "Ron is an outspoken chairman and I'm sure we will have our disagreements, but I said to him that, if he wants me to manage the club, he should let me get on with it. I wouldn't be here if I thought I wouldn't be allowed to do the job."

Steve Coppell, the technical director, and Ray Lewington and Peter Nicholas, the first-

team coaches, will continue at Selhurst Park. "I was keen that there should be no casualties when I came here," Bassett said. "Although I have some sympathy for Ray and Peter over what has happened, they have been doing good jobs and I'm sure they'll carry on doing so."

Lewington, however, still felt miffed. "I do feel a bit slighted by this," he said. "I was picking the team, but I did have a few ups and downs with Ron. I wanted the final decision on the team and tactics, but he didn't feel that was the way to go. Peter and myself have got nothing to be ashamed of. We can hold our heads high and we've just got to get on with it."

Bassett has masterminded six promotion-winning campaigns with Wimbledon, where he first worked with Noades, and Sheffield United. He also holds the Football League record for the briefest managerial tenure — three days — when he joined Palace in 1984 before changing his mind and returning to Wimbledon.

"I was a bit younger then and it seemed a good idea at the time," he said. "I soon realised I made the wrong decision." With Lewington falling out with Noades in public over team selection policy and Bassett still available after leaving Sheffield United by mutual consent in December, a change in Palace's backroom staff was always likely. That it involved an addition, rather than a replacement, was the only surprise.

More strange was a lengthy statement issued by the club, that continually stressed its commitment to "playing good football". Bassett, throughout his 16-year managerial career, has usually been associated with the up-and-at-'em, long-ball version of the beautiful game.

"I'm very conscious of being typecast like that; it sometimes irks me and irritates me," he said. "Football fashions and trends change and of course I would like to play eye-catching stuff, but you have to play in a style that best suits the players you've got. At the end of the day, it's all about winning. It's no good playing attractive football and then getting relegated, is it?"

Lewington will select the side for the last time tomorrow, when Palace play at home to Sheffield United before Bassett takes control. He was twice interviewed for the vacant Ireland job, but, after hearing nothing except that Mick McCarthy had been appointed, he pursued other options.

McCarthy's successor at Millwall was confirmed yesterday as Jimmy Nicholl, the Raith Rovers manager. Nicholl, 38, the former Northern Ireland and Manchester United defender, will take with him Martin Harvey, his assistant, at Stark's Park.

"I'm going to a new club and, within four months, we could be in the Premiership," Nicholl said. "Normally when you take over, the club is in a bit of a mess, but all Millwall need is a bit of fine tuning."

## Cold weather wreaks havoc with FA Cup

By PETER BALL

THE snow may have been disappearing in many areas across the country yesterday, but it has already taken a heavy toll on the FA Cup. At the moment, next Saturday, the official date for the fifth round, is sure of only one tie, at most, it will have three out of the six scheduled.

"On Monday, five days before the start of the fifth round, we will still be without one conclusive tie," Steve Double, the Football Association press officer, said yesterday. "We really need the games at Swindon and Ipswich on Monday and Tuesday to be finished at the first attempt." The winners then would have home ties on February 17, joining Huddersfield Town, who will entertain Middlesbrough or Wimbledon on that day in the one tie that is on.

However, even if Swindon Town or Oldham Athletic, Ipswich Town or Walsall come through at the first attempt, the postponements

on Tuesday and the batch of draws on Wednesday evening mean that the fourth round will certainly not be completed before February 18, at the earliest. If Shrewsbury Town and Liverpool draw on that day, it would stretch until February 28, leaving the possibility that the fifth round could even extend until March 16, a week after the sixth round is due to be played.

Snow is not the only cause of disruption. The greater notice that police require and their increased input into the choice of dates are also significant. Yesterday, for example, Leeds United were unhappy at the West Yorkshire Police's decision to allow a noon kick-off for the second leg of their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final against Birmingham City on February 25, which could cost both clubs £100,000 in television fees if ITV is unable to show the match, originally to be played at 4pm, at the new time.

### RESCHEDULED FA CUP TIES

Monday, Feb 12 Fourth round: Swindon Town v Oldham Athletic (7.45) Replay (if required): Sat Feb 17 (3.0).	Aston Villa (3.0); Swindon Town or Oldham Athletic v Southampton or Crewe (3.0); Middlesbrough Town v Middlesbrough or Wimbledon (3.0).
Tuesday, Feb 13 Fourth round: Ipswich v Walsall (7.45). Replay (if required): Sat Feb 17 (3.0). Fourth round replays: Crewe Alexandra v Southampton (7.30); Oxford United v Wokingham Forest (7.45); Wokingham v Middlesbrough (7.45).	Sunday, Feb 18 Fourth round: Shrewsbury Town v Liverpool (11.0). Replay (if required): Wed Feb 28 (7.30). Fifth round: Manchester United v Coventry or Manchester City (4.0).
Wednesday, Feb 14 Fourth round: Bolton v Leeds (7.45). Replay (if required): Wed Feb 21 (7.45). Fourth round replays: Garrys Town v West Ham United (7.45); West Ham v Garrys Town v Chelsea (7.45).	Monday Feb 19 Fifth round: Nottingham Forest or Oxford United v Tottenham (8.0).
Wednesday, Feb 21 Fourth round: Bolton or Leeds United v Everton or Port Vale (7.45); West Ham or Garrys Town v Chelsea (7.45).	Wednesday, Feb 28 Fifth round: Shrewsbury Town or Liverpool v Charlton Athletic.

## Scattergun approach benefits world rugby

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FOR years, rugby union has tended to cast a cloak of secrecy around the amounts of money available for the sport's development in a global sense. Yesterday, however, the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) declared its financial hand.

From the profits of the past two World Cups, some £7.4 million has either been distributed to, or is earmarked for, nearly 50 countries. Moreover, the International Rugby Settlement, established in the Isle of Man in 1990, has funds amounting to £10 million — a pot that is still growing — for fostering the game worldwide.

"I see this as day one of the development of rugby union," Keith Rowlands, the retiring IRFB secretary, said in introducing Lee Smith, the board's first development and resource officer. It will be the function of Smith, 48, who was New Zealand's director of coaching and development, to monitor and advise on requests for grant aid.

emphasised rugby's lack of strength in depth. The IRFB hopes that the rationalisation of its support programme will reduce the gap between the sport's haves and have-nots.

Smith's role will involve telling any of the 71 countries that belong to the IRFB how to apply for aid. Not every application is a request for money, but for human resources in the shape of coaching, refereeing or development officers. "I bring an understanding of the game down to the grass roots," Smith said. "That should enable me to advise countries on programmes, methods and development."

The £5.7 million that has been distributed so far (another £1.7 million was approved only last week) consists of amounts large and small. "The scattergun effect will fertilise the game and will give a kick-start to many of those unions who are desperately short of money," Rowlands said. "The 1991 World Cup created an explosion of interest in the game and the growth of national unions, all of which are under-funded — one or two can't even afford to buy team shirts."

## Wales see virtue in youth policy

There is a curious relationship that arises between a player and his audience. The rapport for some can be immediate, but others, for all their success, have to work harder to get the approbation of the crowd.

Arwel Thomas, of Wales, falls into the first category. Neil Jenkins into the second. It is not just a matter of the way they play. Jenkins may be perceived as more of a line-kicker than Thomas — but it is not actually the case — and, at this stage, he is infinitely more accurate as a place kicker; but the crowd response differs.

A player may have behavioural problems on the field, but this hardly stops the player from being the crowd's darling. Mickey Skinner, for England, contrived the image of a lovable rogue in most people's eyes in the way that Olivier Merle, of France, could not possibly be. Eric Cantona is more likely to enjoy an invitation as a dinner guest than Vinnie Jones.



GERALD DAVIES  
On Rugby Union

rather than swagger for the game's sake. Yet there is more to it than this. There remains the definable quality that causes a favourable reaction in some but that, in others, stirs feelings not so much of hostility as intolerance. There is something of this going on in Wales at present.

Wales lost to England last Saturday. This, in the distant past, would have been occasion enough for wailing and gnashing of teeth. The defeat in those days was not expected to happen, so things had better be put right — and soon. More recent defeats have not been like this. They have aroused either a simple frustration or a collective bout of defeatism. The nation had grown to expect failure and wore their losses like a tattered garment of a shelterless wail. There was a sense of loss of hope; no anger, no passion.

England are perceived to have problems that are more to do with character and disposition than tactics. Deep-rooted conservative and preferring an institutional pattern, they will find it difficult within themselves to adopt the radical change that they wish.

They know that the pattern of their games can be good, very good — but only to a limited degree. Yet, if they were serious about change, they would have persisted longer, for instance, with Robinson in the back row and

### 'The kids did well' has been the most common refrain since last week

to happen, so things had better be put right — and soon. More recent defeats have not been like this. They have aroused either a simple frustration or a collective bout of defeatism. The nation had grown to expect failure and wore their losses like a tattered garment of a shelterless wail. There was a sense of loss of hope; no anger, no passion. Not so this week. From flimsy and rather fragile evidence, Wales feels not at all bad with events at Twickenham. This is not because restored Hull to full back. If they wish to change, they will need to take risks. Is it in their character to do so?

As for the approbation of the crowd, at Twickenham, this balances on a knife-edge. It adopts a two-faced stance towards its own players. The players are either seriously in favour or joylessly out of it.

As for Wales, it is the approbation that, for the moment, is a distinctive feature. This week, nobody really dared, even if they thought so, to be even moderately critical



Howe points the way forward for the England women's football team at a training session in Slough

## Howe to lift women's spirits

Andrew Longmore watches the England management bridge football's gender gap

On Howe tried to slip away from a vigorous five-a-side, only to be hauled back by that playground cry, "Hey, you're on our side". Poor Don. A pell-mell game of indoor football had not been on the agenda until snow thwarted his hopes for a quiet morning in the sunshine at Bisham Abbey. Now, here he was, mixing it with the best in the land at the Montem Lane Leisure Centre in Slough.

Not even such mundane surroundings could eradicate the minor moment in the history of women's football that came with the balding head and distinctive tones. Not quite El Tel, but the next best thing — The Don, so universally respected within the game, he never gets the England job, he just comes with it. A name, anyway, to lift the spirits of the England women's team before their European championship qualifying tie with Portugal in Benavente, near Lisbon, on Sunday.

Not that long ago, the very notion of the most senior coach in the land investing his time with a bunch of girls would have been suitable cause for dismissal, but the Football Association runs the women's game now and is anxious to show that it means business. Howe's presence in Slough for what the FA, and the players, hope will be the first of many upmarket training sessions was a statement of intent, part PR exercise, part battle cry. Attention levels lifted dramatically.

"The girls were really buzzing," Debbie Bampton, the England captain, said. "It's good for our morale to know that a really big name is taking an interest in us. Everyone was sitting there, listening to every word." An hour with the video and images of Gallit, Van Basten and AC Milan was followed by a more down-to-earth five-a-side. Time only for imparting general principles, not particular tactics.

## Syed has double Olympic setback

MATTHEW SYED, England's table tennis No 1, suffered another unlucky blow to his chances of getting to Atlanta in July when Chen Xinhua, his men's doubles partner, withdrew yesterday from the Olympic qualifying competition in Nantes tomorrow, citing club commitments (Richard Eaton writes).

Because Syed just failed to come through the Olympic singles qualifying competition at Manchester three weeks ago, he is experiencing misfortune in duplicate. Olympic doubles rules require at least one partner to have qualified in singles, and although Chen has done so by virtue of a high world ranking — 19 — Syed has to wait and see whether he gets a wild card for finishing as singles first reserve. That will be too late for him to go to Nantes.

## Lewis booked

Boxing: Lennox Lewis, no longer the No 1 challenger to Frank Bruno, the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, could meet Roy Mercer at Madison Square Garden, New York, in May. "We don't have a solid deal, but we're working on it for May 10," Lou DiBella, the senior vice-president of HBO, the American cable television channel, said yesterday.

If the Lewis-Mercer bout is confirmed, Evander Holyfield and Tim Witherspoon, the former champions, could appear in separate contests on the same bill.

## Norman adrift

Golf: Greg Norman, the world No 1, who is controversially being paid appearance money in the Ford Open championship in Adelaide, lay seven shots off the pace after shooting a 74, two over par, in the first round yesterday. Glenn Jayner and Bradley Hughes, Norman's Australian compatriots, shared the lead with 67s.

## HOLDERS happy

Hockey: Old Loughtonians are hoping to retain their national hockey title at Crystal Palace tonight, with Julian Halls and Nick Thompson to guide their fortunes.

## Tough battle

Ricketts: Neil Smith, the British professional champion, lived dangerously against David Makey, the unseeded Tonbridge professional, before reaching the semi-final of the Lacoste British Open championship in five games. He will play Willie Boone.

## Tanner in squad

Cycling: John Tanner, the winner of the Premier Calendar road race series last year, has gained a place in Great Britain's six-man squad for the inaugural Tour of Langkawi, Malaysia, from March 1 to 10.

## Hicks continues to confound rankings

By PHIL YATES

ANDY HICKS, who is attempting to become the first wild-card entrant to capture the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker title, reached the semi-finals of the invitation tournament yesterday with a surprise 6-3 victory over John Parrott at the Wembley Conference Centre.

Hicks makes a lucrative habit of reserving his best for the game's showpiece occasions. As the world No 17, he had no automatic right to compete at the Masters, but, after runs to the semi-finals of the world and United Kingdom championships, last season, it was hardly a surprise when he was included in the field.

comfortably won the next two frames for a 5-3 advantage before completing victory by sinking the black to a middle pocket in the ninth.

Stephen Hendry, who monopolised the Masters between 1989 and 1993, recorded his 23rd victory in 27 matches in the event by recovering from a 4-2 deficit to defeat John Higgins 6-4 on Wednesday evening.

Hendry had prevailed in only two of his previous eight matches this year and unforced errors continued to plague him early on against Higgins, a 5-4 winner when they met in the corresponding round of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge five weeks ago.

The turning point arrived in the seventh frame. Hendry, 58-0 in arrears at one stage, eventually salvaged it with a yellow-to-pink clearance before finishing impressively on the back of breaks of 55, 64, and a 144 total clearance.

That was the second highest break in the 21-year history of the tournament, exceeded only by a 147 maximum from Kirk Stevens, of Canada, in 1994, and makes the world champion an overwhelming favourite to win the £10,000 bonus for the highest break.

Hendry will tomorrow meet Jimmy White, a player whom he has beaten in four world championship finals.

Results page 37





# Militant man has reconstructed himself

Many unkind things have been said about Peter York's *Eighths*, including the ludicrous suggestion that the 1990s happened too recently to merit a retrospective series. Well, maybe so, if you spent the century's silliest decade making meticulous notes of who did what to whom and why. But, if it is, as it is for me, all a bit of a blur, then York's ridiculously stylised reminders of a ridiculously stylised ten years have been rather fun.

Now, what has all that got to do with last night's television, you ask? Two things. First, that at the current rate of transformation I predict that Hanton will have turned completely into Peter York by the year 2003. And secondly, that my brilliant career (BBC2, has - like York's series - been a well-timed and entertainingly evocative reminder of people and events which, without a bit of help, could easily be forgotten.

Last night it was Hanton's turn to take a trip down short-term memory lane, back to the strawberry fields of Militant-run Liverpool. One of my Big Three narrators, Veronica Heyes, was wheeled out for the occasion, but she hardly got a word in. For Hanton, as we were quickly reminded, has a prodigious gob on him.

These days he supplements his income as a public relations man and television presenter by picking up £1,000 a night on the after-dinner speaking circuit. The pattern, as you would expect from one of the world's great self-publicists, is silky smooth, particularly on the question of would he do it all again? Yes, if it could be 1983 again but no in 1996.

Life's very different, politics are very different, the economy's very different, people are very different, eh? Derek Hanton's very different. The timing of the table talk thud to coincide with the

defiantly souce "eh" was immaculate. As his dotting father said: "He could go on the stage tomorrow and be a comedian." The only question is - how would he tell?

However, it was Hanton's past, rather than his present, that was the matter in hand. His father, interviewed, rather successfully, while having his hair cut recalled his son's early career as a fireman and his little-known involvement in the church. He was as fervent about religion as he became about politics, recalled a friendly carter. The same carter would later compare Hanton's story to that of Jesus Christ, which seemed to be stretching religious metaphor a little.

The key section dealing with the short-lived glory days of Militant was cleverly constructed, with contributions from: colleagues, family and political opponents all interspersed with symbolic footage of



Everton bearing Manchester United in the FA Cup Final. The infamous day when this Trotskyite city council actually secured extra funding from a Tory government was marked by the Everton skipper lifting the FA Cup. The crowds roared. Victory.

Patrick Jenkin, whose Environment Department provided the additional funds, was in no doubt where he had gone wrong. "The

one mistake I made was trusting Derek Hanton and they used that to try and smash my political career." As summaries go, it appeared spot-on and archive footage of cheering, chanting Socialists made it difficult to disagree with Hanton when he described Jenkin as "incredibly naive".

That, of course, marked the turning point. Mrs Thatcher was "indecisive" with "Mr. Kinnoch" in a Labour council went round issuing redundancy notices to their own employees he could kiss the next general election goodbye. Hanton and his allies were expelled from the party, a decision which in Hanton's words, "marked the end of an era".

It also once he had rather skated over the subsequent police inquiry and Hanton's account on fraud tossing of blonde hair and a highly successful series. Its sub-jects, our fallen heroes, have been

tempted by the chance to air their grievances, while we wallow in delicious *Schadenfreude*. A most enjoyable combination.

Over on BBC1, *The Vet* was also coming to an end - and very silly it was, too. "Mum, she's got the bull walking around the yard," shouted Stephen down the telephone to his mother Jennifer (Suzanne Burden). Nothing too complicated, there, you might think.

After all, by that time we had spent half an hour in the company of the eccentric Mike Paley and her bull with the broken leg. Jennifer had set it herself - as those who have been paying attention to the opening odes knew she would. Surely then the words "she", "bull", "walking" and "yard" would ring a few bells. But no. Cue much tossing of blonde hair and the adoption of a series of puzzled expressions: "What do you mean,

Stephen?" Oh spare us - the sooner she runs off with the RSPCA man the better.

Mind you, now poor Patricia (Diana Kent) has met her end in a car crash the whole field of unresolved sexual tension is wide open again. Chris (Richard Hawley) may be consumed with grief at the moment but if there's a sneaking feeling that if and when a new series comes around he might just be ready for a little gentle flirting. As long as he remembers to speak slowly... well, who knows?

Finally, *Thief Takers* (ITV) was notable for two things, a technically impressive beginning (a single tracking shot that appeared to go through two glass windows, across a street and up a flight of stairs) and an old-fashioned but still gripping finale. You can't beat a good roadblock. What came in between wasn't bad either.

● Lynn Truss is on holiday

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (3712)
  - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Coastal) (64063) (4147083)
  - 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Coastal) (4147083)
  - 9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (2325118)
  - 9.45 Kilroy (s) (5794842) 10.30 Good Morning (s) (21806)
  - 12.00 News (Coastal) and weather (6022189)
  - 12.05pm Turnabout (s) (5673267)
  - 12.30 Going for a Song (s) (52151)
  - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Coastal) and weather (67170). 1.30 Regional News (7760064)
  - 1.40 Neighbours (Coastal) (s) (34484151)
  - 2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (9762002)
  - 2.40 **Moon Over Miami**. Light-hearted detective series, with Bill Campbell and Lysette Anthony. (Coastal) (s) (4042977)
  - 3.30 The **Liberal Post Show** (s) (5070170) 3.50 **Look Sharp!** (s) (1457880) 4.05 **The All New Poppye Show** (2601996) 4.15 **Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde** (Coastal) (s) (5840800) 4.30 **Musk** (Coastal) (s) (1719575) 4.55 **Newround Extra** (Coastal) (1046441) 5.10 **Blue Peter** (1790538)
  - 5.35 **Neighbours** (s) (Coastal) (s) (494538) M.L. 5.35 **Inside Lister**
  - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Coastal) and weather (42)
  - 6.00 **Regional News** (642)
  - 7.00 **Gag Tag**. Bob Monaghan overseas the odd or stand-up comics. (Coastal) (s) (248)
  - 7.30 **Tomorrow's World** includes a report on plans to anchor an oil rig in the frozen waters off eastern Canada for the first time (Coastal) (s) (286)
  - 8.00 **Just Good... Friends**. Penny... is determined to tell Vinog that she wants nothing more to do with him; but where is he? (s) (Coastal) (8908)
  - 8.30 **A Question of Sport**. David Coleman fires questions at Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham and their teams of sporting celebrities (420)
  - 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** (Coastal), regional news and weather (3083)
  - 9.30 **Alison's Last Mountain** - Inside Story Special (Coastal) (s) (3088538)
  - N.L. 9.30 **PK Tonight** 10.20 **Alison's Last Mountain** 11.40 **Film: Soapdish** 1.15-2.15pm **Daydream**: Mariah Carey - Madison Square Garden
  - 10.50 **Film: Soapdish** (1991) starring Sally Field, Kevin Kline, Robert Downey Jr and Whoopi Goldberg. Marie Curie and a soap star's status being threatened by a supporting actress scheming to have her written out. Directed by Michael Hoffman (Coastal) (s) (8908731) **WALLES**: 10.50 **All Our Lives** 11.20 **Film: Soapdish** 12.55-2.20pm **Film: Crucible** of Terror
  - 12.20 **Film: Crucible of Terror** (1971) starring Miles Fisher, Mary Malet and James Van Der Beek. A convicted sculptor is on the brink of success when the art world links onto his lifelike bronze sculptures. Directed by Ted Hocker (8199687)
  - 1.50am **Weather** (845518)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am **Open University: The Changing Experience of Education** (1550712) 6.50 **Panel Painting** (5142002)
  - 7.15 **See Hear Breakfast News** (Coastal) (8459170) 7.30 **Slingray** (s) (Coastal) (52248) 8.00 **F.O.T.** (s) (20323)
  - 8.30 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (1380254)
  - 8.40 **The Record** (s) (2541903)
  - 9.05 **Daytime** on Two Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.30-10.30 **Playdays** (s) (25505)
  - 2.00 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (3698289)
  - 2.10 **Open View** (10068151)
  - 2.15 **Sport on Friday**. Masters snooker and FA Cup fourth-round replay highlights (s) (834480) 3.55 **News** (Coastal) (1015003)
  - 4.00 **Snooker - the Masters** (s) (9538)
  - 6.00 **The Muppet Show**. Come Back Little Google (b/w) (Coastal) (466527)
  - 6.28 **The New Avengers**. Speed, Pandy and Sambit investigate the deaths of several agents. (Coastal) (855002)
  - 7.15 **Electric Circus**. Entertainment news and reviews (s) (845542)
  - 7.30 **Sounds of the Eighties**. Featuring the Teardrop Explodes, the Pogues and the Style Council. (Coastal) (s) (829) M.L. 7.30 **Hearts and Minds**
  - 8.00 **Top Gear**. Motorsport Reports on Carlos Sainz, the former World Rally Champion (Coastal) (s) (9157)
  - 8.30 **Gardening from Scratch**. Last in the series (Coastal) (s) (8289)
  - 9.00 **Rab C. Nesbitt**. Father, Rab visits his father's grave and is reunited with his long-lost brother. (Coastal) (s) (1625)
  - 9.30 **The Fast Show**. Comedy sketches with Paul Whitehouse (s) (Coastal) (s) (70557)
  - 10.00 **The Real McCoy**. Ian Edwards fills the week's showcase spot with the regular who includes Leo Chester, Felix Decker, Llewellyn Gibson and Michael Taylor (Coastal) (s). Followed by **Syndicated** (23151)
  - 10.30 **Newswright** (Coastal) (566267)
  - 11.15 **Fantasy - Football League**. David Baddiel's and Frank Skinner's guests are Alison Moyat and Angus Deayton (s) (30267) **WALLES**: 11.15 **Welsh Lobby** (53267) 11.45 **Fantasy Football League** (53267) 12.15 **News** (772107)
  - 12.20 **Snooker - the Masters** (8350519) 1.00-2.55 **Film: Spirit** (512403)
  - 11.45 **Weather** (357118)
  - 11.50 **Snooker - the Masters**. Highlights of the quarter-final matches from the Wembley Conference Centre (s) (803199)
  - 12.30 **Film: Spirit** (1988) with Paul Rhys and Russell Nixon. Drama about a builder who finds solace from his violent stepfather in his running and in the poems and letters written by a soldier during the Second World War. Directed by Jonathan Ripley (89045). Ends at 2.30am.

- BBC3**
- 6.00am **Open University: The Changing Experience of Education** (1550712) 6.50 **Panel Painting** (5142002)
  - 7.15 **See Hear Breakfast News** (Coastal) (8459170) 7.30 **Slingray** (s) (Coastal) (52248) 8.00 **F.O.T.** (s) (20323)
  - 8.30 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (1380254)
  - 8.40 **The Record** (s) (2541903)
  - 9.05 **Daytime** on Two Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.30-10.30 **Playdays** (s) (25505)
  - 2.00 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (3698289)
  - 2.10 **Open View** (10068151)
  - 2.15 **Sport on Friday**. Masters snooker and FA Cup fourth-round replay highlights (s) (834480) 3.55 **News** (Coastal) (1015003)
  - 4.00 **Snooker - the Masters** (s) (9538)
  - 6.00 **The Muppet Show**. Come Back Little Google (b/w) (Coastal) (466527)
  - 6.28 **The New Avengers**. Speed, Pandy and Sambit investigate the deaths of several agents. (Coastal) (855002)
  - 7.15 **Electric Circus**. Entertainment news and reviews (s) (845542)
  - 7.30 **Sounds of the Eighties**. Featuring the Teardrop Explodes, the Pogues and the Style Council. (Coastal) (s) (829) M.L. 7.30 **Hearts and Minds**
  - 8.00 **Top Gear**. Motorsport Reports on Carlos Sainz, the former World Rally Champion (Coastal) (s) (9157)
  - 8.30 **Gardening from Scratch**. Last in the series (Coastal) (s) (8289)
  - 9.00 **Rab C. Nesbitt**. Father, Rab visits his father's grave and is reunited with his long-lost brother. (Coastal) (s) (1625)
  - 9.30 **The Fast Show**. Comedy sketches with Paul Whitehouse (s) (Coastal) (s) (70557)
  - 10.00 **The Real McCoy**. Ian Edwards fills the week's showcase spot with the regular who includes Leo Chester, Felix Decker, Llewellyn Gibson and Michael Taylor (Coastal) (s). Followed by **Syndicated** (23151)
  - 10.30 **Newswright** (Coastal) (566267)
  - 11.15 **Fantasy - Football League**. David Baddiel's and Frank Skinner's guests are Alison Moyat and Angus Deayton (s) (30267) **WALLES**: 11.15 **Welsh Lobby** (53267) 11.45 **Fantasy Football League** (53267) 12.15 **News** (772107)
  - 12.20 **Snooker - the Masters** (8350519) 1.00-2.55 **Film: Spirit** (512403)
  - 11.45 **Weather** (357118)
  - 11.50 **Snooker - the Masters**. Highlights of the quarter-final matches from the Wembley Conference Centre (s) (803199)
  - 12.30 **Film: Spirit** (1988) with Paul Rhys and Russell Nixon. Drama about a builder who finds solace from his violent stepfather in his running and in the poems and letters written by a soldier during the Second World War. Directed by Jonathan Ripley (89045). Ends at 2.30am.

- BBC4**
- 6.00am **Open University: The Changing Experience of Education** (1550712) 6.50 **Panel Painting** (5142002)
  - 7.15 **See Hear Breakfast News** (Coastal) (8459170) 7.30 **Slingray** (s) (Coastal) (52248) 8.00 **F.O.T.** (s) (20323)
  - 8.30 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (1380254)
  - 8.40 **The Record** (s) (2541903)
  - 9.05 **Daytime** on Two Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.30-10.30 **Playdays** (s) (25505)
  - 2.00 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (3698289)
  - 2.10 **Open View** (10068151)
  - 2.15 **Sport on Friday**. Masters snooker and FA Cup fourth-round replay highlights (s) (834480) 3.55 **News** (Coastal) (1015003)
  - 4.00 **Snooker - the Masters** (s) (9538)
  - 6.00 **The Muppet Show**. Come Back Little Google (b/w) (Coastal) (466527)
  - 6.28 **The New Avengers**. Speed, Pandy and Sambit investigate the deaths of several agents. (Coastal) (855002)
  - 7.15 **Electric Circus**. Entertainment news and reviews (s) (845542)
  - 7.30 **Sounds of the Eighties**. Featuring the Teardrop Explodes, the Pogues and the Style Council. (Coastal) (s) (829) M.L. 7.30 **Hearts and Minds**
  - 8.00 **Top Gear**. Motorsport Reports on Carlos Sainz, the former World Rally Champion (Coastal) (s) (9157)
  - 8.30 **Gardening from Scratch**. Last in the series (Coastal) (s) (8289)
  - 9.00 **Rab C. Nesbitt**. Father, Rab visits his father's grave and is reunited with his long-lost brother. (Coastal) (s) (1625)
  - 9.30 **The Fast Show**. Comedy sketches with Paul Whitehouse (s) (Coastal) (s) (70557)
  - 10.00 **The Real McCoy**. Ian Edwards fills the week's showcase spot with the regular who includes Leo Chester, Felix Decker, Llewellyn Gibson and Michael Taylor (Coastal) (s). Followed by **Syndicated** (23151)
  - 10.30 **Newswright** (Coastal) (566267)
  - 11.15 **Fantasy - Football League**. David Baddiel's and Frank Skinner's guests are Alison Moyat and Angus Deayton (s) (30267) **WALLES**: 11.15 **Welsh Lobby** (53267) 11.45 **Fantasy Football League** (53267) 12.15 **News** (772107)
  - 12.20 **Snooker - the Masters** (8350519) 1.00-2.55 **Film: Spirit** (512403)
  - 11.45 **Weather** (357118)
  - 11.50 **Snooker - the Masters**. Highlights of the quarter-final matches from the Wembley Conference Centre (s) (803199)
  - 12.30 **Film: Spirit** (1988) with Paul Rhys and Russell Nixon. Drama about a builder who finds solace from his violent stepfather in his running and in the poems and letters written by a soldier during the Second World War. Directed by Jonathan Ripley (89045). Ends at 2.30am.

- BBC5**
- 6.00am **Open University: The Changing Experience of Education** (1550712) 6.50 **Panel Painting** (5142002)
  - 7.15 **See Hear Breakfast News** (Coastal) (8459170) 7.30 **Slingray** (s) (Coastal) (52248) 8.00 **F.O.T.** (s) (20323)
  - 8.30 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (1380254)
  - 8.40 **The Record** (s) (2541903)
  - 9.05 **Daytime** on Two Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.30-10.30 **Playdays** (s) (25505)
  - 2.00 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (3698289)
  - 2.10 **Open View** (10068151)
  - 2.15 **Sport on Friday**. Masters snooker and FA Cup fourth-round replay highlights (s) (834480) 3.55 **News** (Coastal) (1015003)
  - 4.00 **Snooker - the Masters** (s) (9538)
  - 6.00 **The Muppet Show**. Come Back Little Google (b/w) (Coastal) (466527)
  - 6.28 **The New Avengers**. Speed, Pandy and Sambit investigate the deaths of several agents. (Coastal) (855002)
  - 7.15 **Electric Circus**. Entertainment news and reviews (s) (845542)
  - 7.30 **Sounds of the Eighties**. Featuring the Teardrop Explodes, the Pogues and the Style Council. (Coastal) (s) (829) M.L. 7.30 **Hearts and Minds**
  - 8.00 **Top Gear**. Motorsport Reports on Carlos Sainz, the former World Rally Champion (Coastal) (s) (9157)
  - 8.30 **Gardening from Scratch**. Last in the series (Coastal) (s) (8289)
  - 9.00 **Rab C. Nesbitt**. Father, Rab visits his father's grave and is reunited with his long-lost brother. (Coastal) (s) (1625)
  - 9.30 **The Fast Show**. Comedy sketches with Paul Whitehouse (s) (Coastal) (s) (70557)
  - 10.00 **The Real McCoy**. Ian Edwards fills the week's showcase spot with the regular who includes Leo Chester, Felix Decker, Llewellyn Gibson and Michael Taylor (Coastal) (s). Followed by **Syndicated** (23151)
  - 10.30 **Newswright** (Coastal) (566267)
  - 11.15 **Fantasy - Football League**. David Baddiel's and Frank Skinner's guests are Alison Moyat and Angus Deayton (s) (30267) **WALLES**: 11.15 **Welsh Lobby** (53267) 11.45 **Fantasy Football League** (53267) 12.15 **News** (772107)
  - 12.20 **Snooker - the Masters** (8350519) 1.00-2.55 **Film: Spirit** (512403)
  - 11.45 **Weather** (357118)
  - 11.50 **Snooker - the Masters**. Highlights of the quarter-final matches from the Wembley Conference Centre (s) (803199)
  - 12.30 **Film: Spirit** (1988) with Paul Rhys and Russell Nixon. Drama about a builder who finds solace from his violent stepfather in his running and in the poems and letters written by a soldier during the Second World War. Directed by Jonathan Ripley (89045). Ends at 2.30am.

- BBC6**
- 6.00am **Open University: The Changing Experience of Education** (1550712) 6.50 **Panel Painting** (5142002)
  - 7.15 **See Hear Breakfast News** (Coastal) (8459170) 7.30 **Slingray** (s) (Coastal) (52248) 8.00 **F.O.T.** (s) (20323)
  - 8.30 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (1380254)
  - 8.40 **The Record** (s) (2541903)
  - 9.05 **Daytime** on Two Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.30-10.30 **Playdays** (s) (25505)
  - 2.00 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (3698289)
  - 2.10 **Open View** (10068151)
  - 2.15 **Sport on Friday**. Masters snooker and FA Cup fourth-round replay highlights (s) (834480) 3.55 **News** (Coastal) (1015003)
  - 4.00 **Snooker - the Masters** (s) (9538)
  - 6.00 **The Muppet Show**. Come Back Little Google (b/w) (Coastal) (466527)
  - 6.28 **The New Avengers**. Speed, Pandy and Sambit investigate the deaths of several agents. (Coastal) (855002)
  - 7.15 **Electric Circus**. Entertainment news and reviews (s) (845542)
  - 7.30 **Sounds of the Eighties**. Featuring the Teardrop Explodes, the Pogues and the Style Council. (Coastal) (s) (829) M.L. 7.30 **Hearts and Minds**
  - 8.00 **Top Gear**. Motorsport Reports on Carlos Sainz, the former World Rally Champion (Coastal) (s) (9157)
  - 8.30 **Gardening from Scratch**. Last in the series (Coastal) (s) (8289)
  - 9.00 **Rab C. Nesbitt**. Father, Rab visits his father's grave and is reunited with his long-lost brother. (Coastal) (s) (1625)
  - 9.30 **The Fast Show**. Comedy sketches with Paul Whitehouse (s) (Coastal) (s) (70557)
  - 10.00 **The Real McCoy**. Ian Edwards fills the week's showcase spot with the regular who includes Leo Chester, Felix Decker, Llewellyn Gibson and Michael Taylor (Coastal) (s). Followed by **Syndicated** (23151)
  - 10.30 **Newswright** (Coastal) (566267)
  - 11.15 **Fantasy - Football League**. David Baddiel's and Frank Skinner's guests are Alison Moyat and Angus Deayton (s) (30267) **WALLES**: 11.15 **Welsh Lobby** (53267) 11.45 **Fantasy Football League** (53267) 12.15 **News** (772107)
  - 12.20 **Snooker - the Masters** (8350519) 1.00-2.55 **Film: Spirit** (512403)
  - 11.45 **Weather** (357118)
  - 11.50 **Snooker - the Masters**. Highlights of the quarter-final matches from the Wembley Conference Centre (s) (803199)
  - 12.30 **Film: Spirit** (1988) with Paul Rhys and Russell Nixon. Drama about a builder who finds solace from his violent stepfather in his running and in the poems and letters written by a soldier during the Second World War. Directed by Jonathan Ripley (89045). Ends at 2.30am.

- BBC7**
- 6.00am **Open University: The Changing Experience of Education** (1550712) 6.50 **Panel Painting** (5142002)
  - 7.15 **See Hear Breakfast News** (Coastal) (8459170) 7.30 **Slingray** (s) (Coastal) (52248) 8.00 **F.O.T.** (s) (20323)
  - 8.30 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (1380254)
  - 8.40 **The Record** (s) (2541903)
  - 9.05 **Daytime** on Two Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.30-10.30 **Playdays** (s) (25505)
  - 2.00 **Johnson and Friends** (s) (3698289)
  - 2.10 **Open View** (10068151)
  - 2.15 **Sport on Friday**. Masters snooker and FA Cup fourth-round replay highlights (s) (834480) 3.55 **News** (Coastal) (1015003)
  - 4.00 **Snooker - the Masters** (s) (9538)
  - 6.00 **The Muppet Show**. Come Back Little Google (b/w) (Coastal) (466527)
  - 6.28 **The New Avengers**. Speed, Pandy and Sambit investigate the deaths of several agents. (Coastal) (855002)
  - 7.15 **Electric Circus**. Entertainment news and reviews (s) (845542)
  - 7.30 **Sounds of the Eighties**. Featuring the Teardrop Explodes, the Pogues and the Style Council. (Coastal) (s) (829) M.L. 7.30 **Hearts and Minds**
  - 8.00 **Top Gear**. Motorsport Reports on Carlos Sainz, the former World Rally Champion (Coastal) (s) (9157)
  - 8.30 **Gardening from Scratch**. Last in the series (Coastal) (s) (8289)
  - 9.00 **Rab C. Nesbitt**. Father, Rab visits his father's grave and is reunited with his long-lost brother. (Coastal) (s) (1625)
  - 9.30 **The Fast Show**. Comedy sketches with Paul Whitehouse (s) (Coastal) (s) (70557)
  - 10.00 **The Real McCoy**. Ian Edwards fills the week's showcase spot with the regular who includes Leo Chester, Felix Decker, Llewellyn Gibson and Michael Taylor (Coastal) (s). Followed by **Syndicated** (23151)
  - 10.30 **Newswright** (Coastal) (566267)
  - 11.15 **Fantasy - Football League**. David Baddiel's and Frank Skinner's guests are Alison Moyat and Angus Deayton (s) (30267) **WALLES**: 11.15 **Welsh Lobby** (53267) 11.45 **Fantasy Football League** (53267) 12.15 **News** (772107)
  - 12.20 **Snooker - the Masters** (8350519) 1.00-2.55 **Film: Spirit** (512403)
  - 11.45 **Weather** (357118)
  - 11.50 **Snooker - the Masters**. Highlights of the quarter-final matches from the Wembley Conference Centre (s) (803199)
  - 12.30 **Film: Spirit** (1988) with Paul Rhys and Russell Nixon. Drama about a builder who finds solace from his violent stepfather in his running and in the poems and letters written by a soldier during the Second World War. Directed by Jonathan Ripley (89045). Ends at 2.30am.

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**
- SKY ONE**
- 7.00am **Power Eggs and Soldiers** (16944)
  - 8.00 **Power Eggs** (74829)
  - 9.00 **Power Eggs** (74829) 9.30 **Connection** (16944) 9.30 **TV 13** (43248) 9.30 **Open Week** (92277) 10.00 **Jaguar** (17222) 10.30 **Open Week** (92277) 10.30 **Open Week** (92277) 11.00 **Open Week** (92277) 11.30 **Open Week** (92277) 12.00 **Open Week** (92277) 12.30 **Open Week** (92277) 1.00 **Open Week** (92277) 1.30 **Open Week** (92277) 2.00 **Open Week** (92277) 2.30 **Open Week** (92277) 3.00 **Open Week** (92277) 3.30 **Open Week** (92277) 4.00 **Open Week** (92277) 4.30 **Open Week** (92277) 5.00 **Open Week** (92277) 5.30 **Open Week** (92277) 6.00 **Open Week** (92277) 6.30 **Open Week** (92277) 7.00 **Open Week** (92277) 7.30 **Open Week** (92277) 8.00 **Open Week** (92277) 8.30 **Open Week** (92277) 9.00 **Open Week** (92277) 9.30 **Open Week** (92277) 10.00 **Open Week** (92277) 10.30 **Open Week** (92277) 11.00 **Open Week** (92277) 11.30 **Open Week** (92277) 12.00 **Open Week** (92277) 12.30 **Open Week** (92277)

- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 4.00pm **The Hoopster** (1989) (8212258) 5.00 **Mad Max** (1979) (8212258) 6.00 **Mad Max** (1979) (8212258) 7.00 **Mad Max** (1979) (8212258) 8.00 **Mad Max** (1979) (8212258) 9.00 **Mad Max** (1979) (8212258) 10.00 **Mad Max** (1979) (8212258) 11.00 **Mad Max** (1979) (8212258) 12.00 **Mad Max** (1979) (8212258)

- THE MOVIE CHANNEL**
- 6.00pm **The Movie** (1988) (86712) 6.00 **Connacht** (1987) (86712) 7.00 **Connacht** (1987) (86712) 8.00 **Connacht** (1987) (86712) 9.00 **Connacht** (1987) (86712) 10.00 **Connacht** (1987) (86712) 11.00 **Connacht** (1987) (86712) 12.00 **Connacht** (1987) (86712)

- THE DISNEY CHANNEL**
- 5.00pm **Disney Channel** (1988) (86712) 5.00 **Disney Channel** (1988) (86712) 6.00 **Disney Channel** (1988) (86712) 7.00 **Disney Channel** (1988) (86712) 8.00 **Disney Channel** (1988) (86712) 9.00 **Disney Channel** (1988) (86712) 10.00 **Disney Channel** (1988) (86712) 11.00 **Disney Channel** (1988) (86712) 12.00 **Disney Channel** (1988) (86712)

- THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL**
- 4.00pm **Living World** (200

MOTOR RACING 37
HERBERT LAUNCHES HIMSELF ONTO NEW TRACK AT SAUBER

SPORT

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9 1996

RUGBY LEAGUE 38
AMATEURS BANKING ON SPIRIT TO SEE OFF TRINITY

Organisers suggest UN intervention in World Cup crisis

Cork joins England injury list

By SIMON WILDE

FIVE days before their opening World Cup match, England's cricketers find their fitness concerns assuming worrying proportions.

Cork is experiencing pain in the tendon area below his right knee, brought on, basically, by wear and tear.

England's first match is against New Zealand in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, their second against United Arab Emirates in Peshawar on Sunday week.



the modest challenge of the Emirates, they would miss him in Ahmedabad.

"We will give Dominic three days' rest," Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, said yesterday.

In the past nine months, Cork has been England's leading bowler, and, in South Africa recently, he bowled twice as many overs in international matches as any of his colleagues.

Robin Smith, who sustained a groin strain completing a catch during his side's first warm-up game, on Wednesday, was yesterday ruled out of England's first two matches and a decision as to whether he stays with the party will be made at the weekend.

injury is likely to take at least a week to mend, hopefully ten days at the worst.

The England management is awaiting clarification about a replacement, if one is needed. Illingworth is unsure whether another batsman must be chosen from the 18 names that England submitted to the organisers last month.

Earlier this week, it was disclosed that Darren Gough is carrying a hamstring injury, although he played yesterday and took one wicket as England restricted their opponents to 166 for nine from 50 overs on a slow pitch.

Their most effective bowlers, though, were Richard Illingworth and Neil Smith, the spinners, who took three for 24 and two for 29 respectively.

England's progress was also slow, the match-winning partnership of 76 between Russell and Fairbrother occupying 23 overs.

The ever-reliable Russell, who scored 60 the day before made a valuable 38 after yet another middle-order collapse had seen four wickets fall for 12 runs.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, the convenor of Pilcom, the organising committee, claimed yesterday that it had asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) to request the United Nations to send an observer to Sri Lanka to establish whether it was unsafe to stage matches there, after the suicide bombing in Colombo.

Australia and West Indies have risked forfeiting fixtures by refusing to play on the island.

The ICC's office in London had no knowledge of such a request yesterday, and David Richards, its chief executive, spent the day en route to Calcutta, where a meeting will be held tomorrow to discuss the crisis.



Cork limps from the field after playing only a brief part in the second warm-up match in Lahore yesterday

the organising committee, held out little hope of a solution. "I am not aware of any compromise formula. It's too late for that," he said yesterday.

Glenn Turner, the coach of New Zealand, who arrived in Bombay on Wednesday, spoke confidently yesterday of his side's prospects.

played one-day series against India and Pakistan, losing the first narrowly and drawing the second, despite Turner introducing new players.

most outstanding batsmen of the past few years, Martin Crowe and Mark Greatbatch, is a big blow, but ours is a young side that can make up for their absence."

Diary, page 16

Dumitrescu denied work permit

By PETER BALL AND DAVID MADDOCK

THE Bosman decision may have opened the gates to footballers from countries within the European Community, but the Department of Employment is beginning to flex its muscles over other nationalities.

"We will fight this all the way," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said last night. "You are talking about two world class players here, and I'm not happy about it. I never expected a problem with a work permit, but we won't leave it at that."

Everton were equally unhappy. "We are very, very disappointed, and are now considering our options and response," Michael Dunford, the Everton secretary, said. "It is possible we will request further discussion with the department. Marc's career is

now in limbo, and he knows, unless it is sorted out, he must leave the country in June."

Hotzger and Dumitrescu had been given permits when they first came to Great Britain to join Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur, respectively. They have now fallen foul of the rule that requires them to play 75 per cent of their team's games, even though the Football Association and the Premier League are understood to have

approved their applications for a renewal. The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), however, protective of home-grown talent, was less supportive.

Hotzger joined Everton three weeks ago for £700,000. He played 51 games for Newcastle last season, but fell foul of the three foreigners rule in the pre-Bosman days of this season, with Ginola, Albert, Gillespie and Srnicek taking preference.

Even so, the department's statement that "he had only played in 66 per cent of Newcastle's games in the last 12 months, not the required 75 per cent", seems harsh.

"Dumitrescu has played for his country regularly, he has been outstanding in the World Cup," Redknapp said. "He

has not played enough games for Tottenham, but that is why players appear on the transfer list. Tottenham bought Ruel Fox because he wasn't getting a game at Newcastle; I sold Don Hutchison to Sheffield United because he wasn't in our team."

Claudio Brancu, the Brazil international full back, agreed an 18-month contract with Middlesbrough yesterday, but that deal, too, is subject to the player being granted a work permit. Brancu has 83 caps to his credit but has appeared infrequently for his country in recent seasons.

Fastino Asprilla is the next player with an appointment at the Department of Employment. The Colombia international completed his £6.7 million move to Newcastle yesterday. There should be no doubts about that one — at least as long as he keeps a place in the team.

Palace appointment, page 36 FA Cup chaos, page 36

Catt presents England with dilemma

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MIKE CATT has thrown a further twist into what has already been a tortuous rugby union season for England by telling Bath that he seeks to play full back.

Since Stuart Barnes retired, however, he has been playing stand-off for Bath, who have Jonathan Callard, another

international, at full back and Callard is preferred for the Pilkington Cup fifth-round tie at Wakefield tomorrow. Catt takes his place in the second-team game with Orrell.

"The only way for me to contribute to the expansive game England want to play

Wales see virtue of youth 36

in the next World Cup is to get used to playing that way at full back regularly for Bath."

If Callard, 30 and capped five times, has anything to do with it, he will be. "I've faced challenges before, but I've got to get

on with it," he said. "No one person is bigger than the club and none of us is indispensable. I wouldn't say this challenge was too daunting."

Three full backs are named in the England squad to train at Marlow on Tuesday, Tim Stimpson joining Callard and Catt; but, if Catt cannot out his colleague over the next fortnight, England will have a hard decision to make when they name the XV to play Scotland at Murrayfield on March 2. However, irregular appearances in the Bath front row last season did not prevent John Waller, the prop, earning a place in England's World Cup squad.

The training squad, announced three England A forwards — David Sims, Garath Archer and Richard Cockerill — and also includes Tony Underwood.

Davis finds the cue to heaven after untimely break with past

By PHEL YATES

THOSE casual snooker players who pick up any old cue out of the rack at their local club must wonder what all the fuss is about.

Davis has won 70 tournaments — more than any player in the game — since 1978, but none in the past 13 months. The drought began when he accidentally broke the cue that had brought him all his important titles.

Until last month, a cue borrowed from his father had proved a poor substitute, so Davis's euphoria after his vintage 6-0 victory — using the new cue — over Ken Doherty in the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley earlier this week was understandable.

The histories of billiards and snooker have repeatedly demonstrated that, while a cue alone cannot make a champion, the loss of a champion's old faithful will probably sink him.

In 1925 Willie Smith went to Australia to face the great Walter Lindrum at billiards. Lindrum was the finest exponent of the three-ball game, but a group of local gamblers, wishing to give their man an edge, smashed Smith's cue. Years later, aged 90, Smith was asked how he got over it. "I never did," he said.

Stephen Hendry would never play a fortnight's match for a tea service, as Smith did during that tour, but he has suffered the same kind of loss. In 1990, during a tournament in Reading, Hendry, who had captured the first of his five world titles six months earlier, walked into a hotel restaurant looking desperate.

He had left his cue unattended for a couple of minutes and was clinging to the hope that its subsequent disappearance was some sort of ill-judged practical joke. It soon proved not to be so. For the next two days, Hendry was frantic enough for his manager to offer a £10,000 reward.

The exact circumstances surrounding the return of the cue, that has been the decisive instrument in the sport this decade, are still mysterious, but the Rex Williams Powerglide model, that would have cost no more than £20 in any good sports shop, was discovered on a piece of waste ground.

The usually unadorned Scot hugged and kissed

it, murmuring "My baby, my baby." Hendry's anxiety had been intensified by the knowledge that, three years earlier, Cliff Thorburn, the 1980 world champion, had arrived for a match without his cue, had borrowed another and been white-washed 5-0.

Having a cue sabotaged or stolen is one thing, but Darren Morgan's original cue reached the end of its usefulness at the hands of his father, who smashed it over his knee during an argument. Later, Morgan Sr threw the replacement javelin-like out of the house. It landed, tip down at the bottom of the garden, no damage was done and, a few months later, his son used it to win the 1987 world amateur championship.

The rules are straightforward when it comes to a cue's dimensions. It has to be at least 3ft long and "must conform to the accepted shape and design". The

I sometimes think you care more for that cue than you do for me!



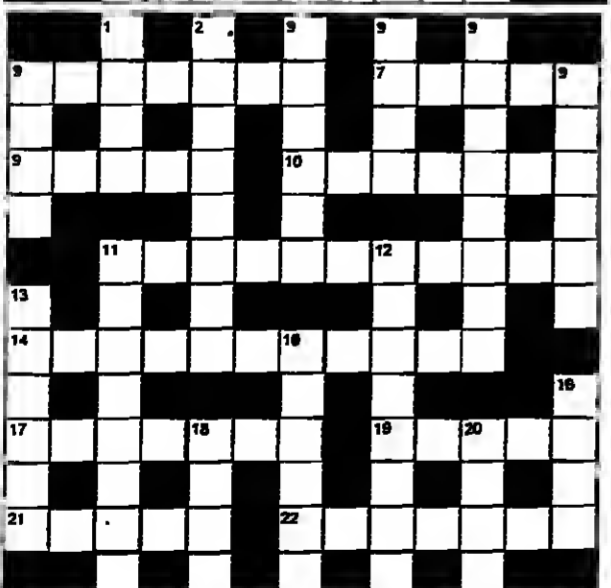
authorities felt it necessary to introduce any legislation only after the Alec Brown fountain pen incident in 1938.

Brown was playing at Thurston's, the professional showcase of the game in Leicester Square, when, with the cue-ball marooned in the middle of the pack of rods, he produced a pen-like cue of no more than five inches, complete with tip. The cue, made by his father, allowed a potentially tricky shot to be played with ease, but the referee awarded a foul, ruling that the implement was outside the spirit, if not the letter, of the law.

Davis will have no such problem when he faces Alan McManus at Wembley today. To the television viewer, his cue will look like any other; but to Davis, it will look like the only one in the world.

Leading article, page 17 Parrot surprise, page 36

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 700

- ACROSS
6 Holy Land sea: church porch (7)
7 Thorough mixture (5)
9 Place for assembly (5)
10 Set of victims' names (3,4)
11 Mercy stroke (4,2,5)
14 A vivid blue (1,1)
17 Amount due but unpaid (7)
19 Hammer (for calling to order) (5)
21 Approves; parasites (5)
22 A prehistoric period (4,3)
DOWN
1 (Scots,) valley (4)
2 God be praised! (8)
3 Procedure, technique (6)
4 Be close against (4)
5 Tender; in frail health (3)
6 Deliver; perform (4)
8 Be indecisive (6)
11 On special offer (3-5)
12 Strange, unwelcome events (6-2)
13 Familiar (with) (2,4)
15 Make rope descent (6)
16 Ventilation duct (4)
18 In addition (4)
20 Call meat (4)

The solution to 699 will be published Wednesday, February 14

WE ARE NOW OFFERING READERS OF THE TIMES FREE DELIVERY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AT STANDARD RETAIL PRICE - OFFER EXTENDED TO INCLUDE EUROPE - REST OF WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM - STERLING OR US \$ CHEQUES ONLY - (1) - \$US 1.50.
TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Attenborough - diskettes contain circa 60 crosswords per title (with HELP levels); for IBM PCs and Acorn RISC OS (Archimedes) range. NOW ONLY £9.99 each. The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 - The Times Crossword 3, 4, 5, 6 - The Times Two 1, 2, 3 - The Times Jubilee Edition - The Times Crosswords 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 - The Sunday Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 - The Sunday Times Crossword 1, 2, 3, 4 - The Sunday Times Map - The Sunday Times 10, 11, 12, 13. Also: The Times Omnibus Editions (two diskettes - 120 Times Crosswords) £9.99.
THE TIMES MAPS (folded): JUST £4.99 EACH - The World, Ireland, British Isles, Canada.
Send cheques with order payable to Alison Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London, SE8 5JW. Delivery up to eight days (UK). Tel: 0181-852 4375 (24hrs). No credit cards.

Chinese sale relation
Eat o for a fi
Eat for VOUCHE

New! The Best Sports Magazine You've Ever Seen!
TOTAL SPORT
It's Hell!
50
New Issue On Sale Now

# Chinese nuclear sale damages relations with US

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

TENSIONS between China and the United States are escalating on several fronts. They took another unsettling turn yesterday with revelations that Peking has sold nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan. That could lead to Washington imposing sanctions running to billions of dollars, but President Clinton may waive the penalties for the sake of American jobs and to avoid making links even more strained.

The nuclear proliferation issue comes on top of other flashpoints, including human rights abuses, China's sabre-rattling over Taiwan and its continued piracy of American software, music and videos.

There is a strong chance that China could become an election issue for Mr Clinton. His campaign taunt four years ago that President Bush was codding the "butchers" of Peking could be hurled back by Republican foes.

Mr Clinton is under pressure not to impose sanctions on China from Boeing, Westinghouse and other big corporations whose orders from Peking account for thousands of jobs. But China has been identified by the CIA as selling specialised magnets needed to refine weapons-grade uranium to Pakistan. Under American laws, Mr Clinton could retaliate by cutting off all US government loan guarantees amounting to nearly \$10 billion (£6.5 billion) to American companies doing business with China.

To waive these sanctions, Mr Clinton would have to declare that the business deals were vital to American national interests. The decision is a quandary for the President. To impose sanctions would worsen relations with China and upset American companies. Not to do so would upset Democrats who think that halting the spread

of nuclear weapons comes before business interests. "Failure to impose sanctions would make the world a more dangerous place," said Nancy Pelosi, a liberal Democrat and China specialist on the House intelligence committee.

In fact, business links between China and America have become so intertwined that both nations would suffer if global politics and confrontation were allowed to intrude. Last year the United States exported goods and services worth more than \$12 billion to China, accounting for 200,000 American jobs, while Chinese exports approached \$40 billion.

This huge trade deficit is further stoked by China's refusal to honour an agreement reached a year ago to shut more than 30 factories churning out illegal copies of American CDs, videos and computer programmes. Mickey Kantor, the US Trade Representative,



Taiwanese soldiers practise hand-to-hand combat during military exercises in the east coast city of Hualien

has warned China that unless the piracy ceases he will impose 100 per cent duties on more than a billion dollars in Chinese exports.

China appears unwilling to compromise in return for any accommodating American stance. Two years ago Mr Clinton agreed to separate

trade from human rights issues, yet China continues its crack down on dissidents and other abuses.

In Washington this week, Li Zhaoxing, the Chinese deputy Foreign Minister, insisted that the technology sales to Pakistan and elsewhere in the Middle East were purely for

peaceful nuclear co-operation, a claim America rejects. He blamed Washington for the downturn in relations, citing Taiwan as an example.

Peking still lays claim to Taiwan as a renegade province and refuses to rule out force to retake it. China is agitated over Taiwan moves

towards democracy, with voters electing a president for the first time next month.

US intelligence believes that China will stage military exercises near the island to intimidate its leaders. US officials warned China that any unprovoked attack would have grave consequences.

## Peking issues weapons warning

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA said yesterday that the United States must stop selling advanced weapons to Taiwan if tensions between Peking and Taipei are to be eased, and it urged the Taiwanese authorities to abandon efforts to break out of diplomatic isolation.

Shan Goufang, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, reiterated Peking's commitment to peaceful reunification with Taiwan, but underlined China's threat to invade Taiwan if the island was attacked or if Taipei abandoned its avowed goal of reunification and declared its independence.

"The United States must not sell large amounts of advanced weapons to Taiwan for tensions to be eliminated," Mr Shen said.

Reports have suggested that China is planning major military exercises near Taiwan, but President Clinton said yesterday he was confident that there would be no military conflict because too much was at stake.

## Lawyer arrested in Bahrain crackdown

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE spectre of Islamic unrest spreading throughout the Gulf and threatening the conservative rulers of the oil-rich states was yesterday strengthened by a fresh attempt to crack down in the troubled island of Bahrain.

The Government has arrested a prominent lawyer and writer on the ground of inciting sabotage and arson, a move likely to inflame unrest in the small Gulf island. Ahmad al-Shamlan was arrested by security forces, who said that several suspects had disclosed under questioning that he had taken part in recent sabotage attacks and arson. He is the first prominent Sunni Muslim to be arrested since unrest at the end of 1994, largely inspired by Shia calls for an end to discrimination against the Shia majority and a restoration of the 1975 constitution.

The crackdown comes as Bahrain's neighbours are growing increasingly nervous about the demonstrations. Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent of Saudi Arabia, said in one of his first foreign policy announcements that the riots on the island were unacceptable and the instigators should be dealt with.

The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, which groups Saudi Arabia and conservative states in the

Gulf, has blamed Iran for the unrest and accused it of stirring up anti-government violence.

Yesterday Bahrain, which has deported three dissident Muslim clergy it accused of pro-Iranian sedition, said Tehran had incited the protests. The security officials said Mr Shamlan had links and contacts with terrorist organisations abroad, and said that they would, when questioning ended, "provide full evidence supported by documents to the legal authorities".

Iran has conducted a virulent radio propaganda campaign against Saudi Arabia, which now sees Iran as the greatest threat to its security in the region. There is little evidence that Tehran has been actively conducting a campaign of subversion, although a diplomat was expelled from Bahrain last week.

There is mounting evidence that conservative Gulf rulers are taking fright at moves for more democracy and are putting pressure on neighbouring countries to clamp down on press and personal freedoms. Kuwaiti officials say they have been warned not to move any further in extending democratic rights because of the dangerous example this set.

## Eat out for a fiver

DINING OUT IS always a pleasure, but with *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer, starting on Monday, February 12, it is also easily affordable. To apply, cut out the vouchers which are appearing daily. If you missed the guide in Monday's paper, you can order one by sending two first class stamps to: *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer, PO Box 481, London E1 9BD. Additions to our guide: Raffles Restaurant, Aldbourne, Nr Marlborough, Wilts, two-course lunch M, T, W, Th, F, Sa, Tel: 01672 540700; Stratford Lodge, Park Lane, Salisbury, Wilts, two courses, lunch - T, W, Th, F, dinner - T, W, Th, Tel: 01722 325177; The Epicurean, The Promenade, Cheltenham, Glos, main course from bistrot menu only, lunch M, T, W, Th, F, S, Tel: 01242 222466; Yum Yum Thai Restaurant, High St, Loughborough, Leics, two-course lunch M, T, W, Th, F, Tel: 01509 260030; Luigi's Restaurant, Gipsy Hill, London SE19, main course lunch M, T, W, Th, F, S, Sun, dinner - M, T, W, Th, Sun, Tel: 0181-670 1843.

THE TIMES



### Eat out for £5

### VOUCHER

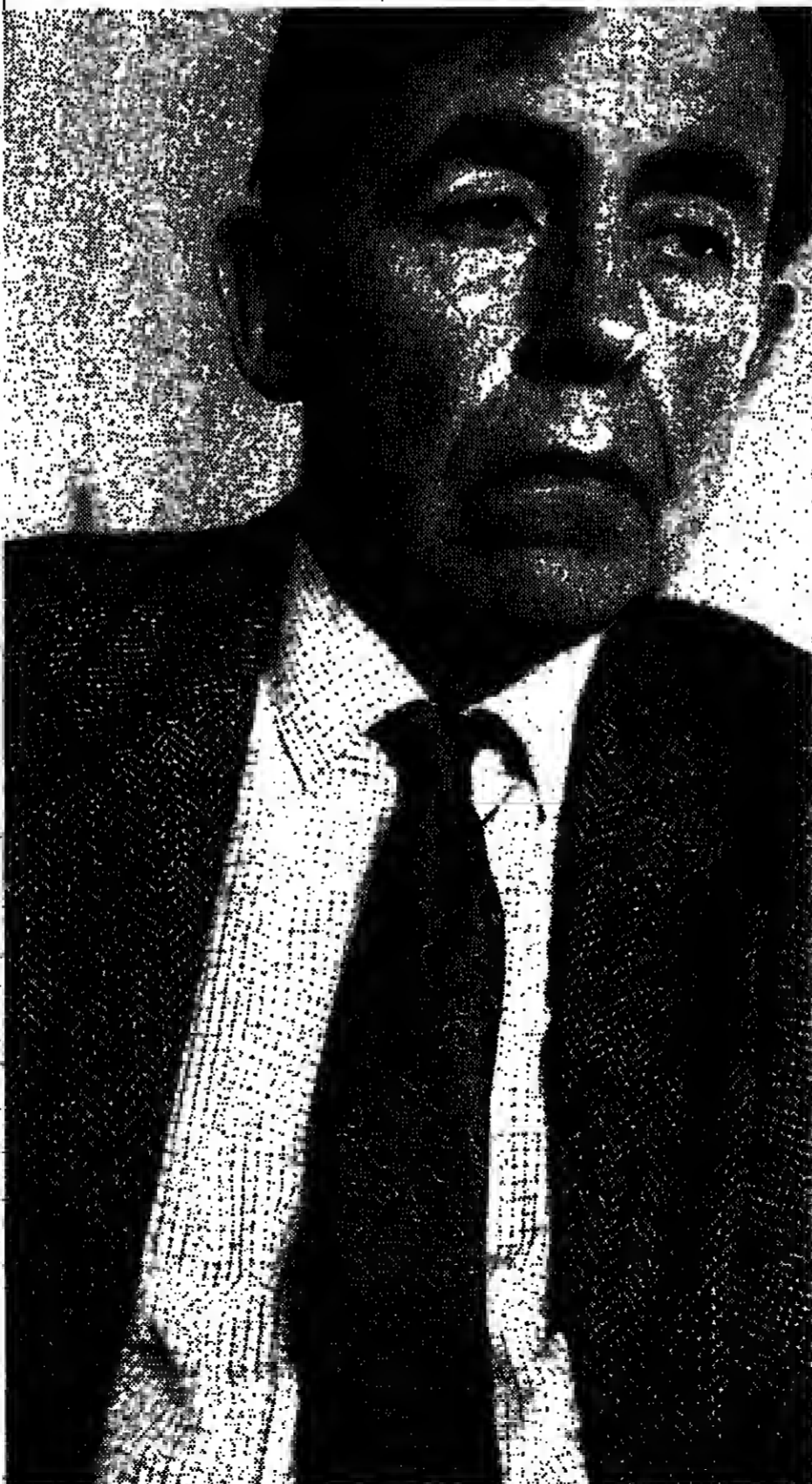
This voucher entitles the bearer and up to five guests to a one, two or three course meal for £5 each at any one of the participating restaurants in *The Times* Eat out for £5 guide.

#### CONDITIONS OF USE

Reservations must be made in advance and the voucher presented on arrival. The offer applies to the Eat out for £5 menu only at applicable sittings for up to six people. One, two or three courses apply as specified in the guide. Where less than three courses are offered, starters and desserts can be selected from the main menu and the appropriate price must be paid. This offer applies to food only - drinks must be purchased separately. Where no drinks are purchased, restaurants may charge a discretionary £2 per person cover charge. The offer is valid from February 12 until March 31, 1996. Refer to the guide for full details, days available and whether lunch or dinner is being offered.

## IF I'D KNOWN I WAS GOING TO HAVE A STROKE,

If you were unfortunate enough to develop a serious illness, or had an accident and had to give up your job, would you and your family be able to maintain your current standard of living without any wages coming in? Bills have a habit of still needing to be paid, even when you're not being. And it doesn't take long to realise that State benefits don't stretch very far. Basically, you and your family would be in a lot of trouble. But by talking to Norwich Union Healthcare and taking out a SafeGuard Income Protection plan, you can avoid it.



I'D HAVE

## SAVED UP

Stop working because of illness or injury and eventually you stop getting paid, as even the most understanding boss will only pay you for doing nothing for so long. Four to six weeks is the average time given, then they're sorry, but they have to think of it as still down the company. You may receive support from the State, but the basic incapacity benefit for a single person is only £52.50 per week. Add up how much you spend every week on necessities such as food, clothes, gas and electricity, and you'll find it's nowhere near enough.

The truth is, it's still down to you to maintain your own standard of living, and your family's, even if you no longer have a job, and no real amount of money coming in. Not your employer or the State. You, and to be honest, you're going to need some help.

A Safe-Guard plan from Norwich Union Healthcare can provide you with the help you need. From only £10 a month, you can insure up to 75% of your income against almost all types of illness or injury, and protect yourself and your family against suffering a lower standard of living should you have to give up your job. Every month until you are fit enough to start work again, or if necessary, until you reach your agreed retirement age, Safe-Guard provides you with an income to the agreed level of cover.

Think carefully before you turn the page. Don't think it won't happen to you. You probably won't be one of the 120,000 people to have a stroke next year, but in 1994, 1.6 million workers needed more than six months off work due to other illnesses or injuries. Most of them didn't think it would ever happen to them either. For more information, call free on 0800 400 123.

FOR MORE DETAILS ON PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY WITH A SAFE-GUARD INCOME PROTECTION

Please return coupon to: Norwich Union Healthcare, Chiffinch House, Hampshire Corporate Park, Templars Way, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO53 3RY.

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s) and title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day) STD \_\_\_\_\_

(evening) STD \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

No one protects more.

WE MAY WISH TO PASS ON YOUR DATA TO OTHER SELECTED COMPANIES, WHO MAY THEN CONTACT YOU. IF YOU DON'T WANT THIS, PLEASE TICK THE BOX  SPG-501

# Kohl calls for more sacrifices as jobless top four million

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, was attacked in parliament yesterday after the announcement that the number of unemployed had jumped well over the psychologically important level of four million and was worse than at any time since 1948.

The leap to 4.16 million was blamed partly on unusually cold weather, but the trend was unmistakable: it was the sixth monthly increase in a row. Despite a government action plan, worked out with the tentative agreement of the unions, the employment situation is unlikely to improve much this year.

This week Grundig, once a household name in electronics, announced the cutting of another 3,000 jobs, and Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, unveiled plans to reduce 7,000 public-sector jobs, including a 20 per cent cut in the number of German spies.

The Chancellor told parliament that his plans to cut taxes and stimulate growth would eventually make an impact on unemployment levels, but that everybody had to be prepared to make sacrifices and contribute to reforms. He let out some of his old animosity for Baroness Thatcher as he defended his cuts in social spending. He was not, he said, about to destroy the welfare state. "We never thought the example of Thatcher was something suitable for German conditions."

## BLEAK PROSPECT

□ Mechanical engineering: Production is up 7 per cent, but the number of jobs dropped by 10,000 in the past year.

□ Building: 5,500 bankruptcies were reported last year and more than 6,000 are expected this year. At least 90,000 jobs are expected to go this year.

□ Car industry: It is estimated that 100,000 jobs will be lost in manufacturing and the spare parts sector between now and 2000.

□ Electronics: the industry lost 230,000 jobs between 1990 and last year. More are expected to go this year. □ Retail trade: Between 30,000 and 40,000 jobs are to be cut this year. In the previous two years 90,000 jobs were lost.

ment-creation measures in anticipation of the record unemployment level. Neither the Social Democrats, nor the leaders of the 16 federal state governments, nor the Bundestag were invited to the round table and all are unhappy.

Bernhard Jagoda, head of the Federal Labour Office, said the unemployment rate had risen to 10.8 per cent from 9.9 per cent in December. The increase was more steep in eastern Germany — a 42,000 jump to 1.17 million — probably because of the large number of construction workers being laid off. In western Germany, where the worst affected areas were the Ruhr, Lower Saxony and Bremen, unemployment has risen to 2.67 million.

Here Kohl has promised to create two million new jobs by 2000, but there is no sign that employers have been encouraged by his rather vague initiative.

First, there is a suspicion the Chancellor merely wants to ensure that the Social Democrats do not monopolise the employment issue. There are three regional elections next month, providing an important indicator to the Chancellor's future. Second, many employers believe that the unions are arguing on the basis of topsy-turvy economics. Union negotiators say that, since high labour costs are causing unemployment, then lower real wages should translate into new jobs.

Many employers claim it will be difficult to keep employment levels, even at their present level. David Herman, chairman of Opel, speaks for many employers when he says that unions will have to accept not only the principle of wage restraint but a lower standard of living across the board.

There is a basic resistance to big cuts in welfare spending. Rudolf Scharping, the Social Democrats' parliamentary leader, last night accused the Chancellor of deserting his responsibility to generate economic progress in a way that "intimately links it to social justice".

We have completely different ideas of social obligations."

The unemployment figures were anticipated by the markets and the politicians, but they did nothing to dull the anger of debate or reduce the sense of hopelessness about the economic slowdown.

Last week the Chancellor brought together unions, employers and the Government to devise a package of incentives for businessmen, to map out welfare cuts and employ-

## Reprimand for Bonn

Bonn: A European Commissioner yesterday sharply criticised Bonn for its lagged implementation of European laws (Roger Boyes writes).

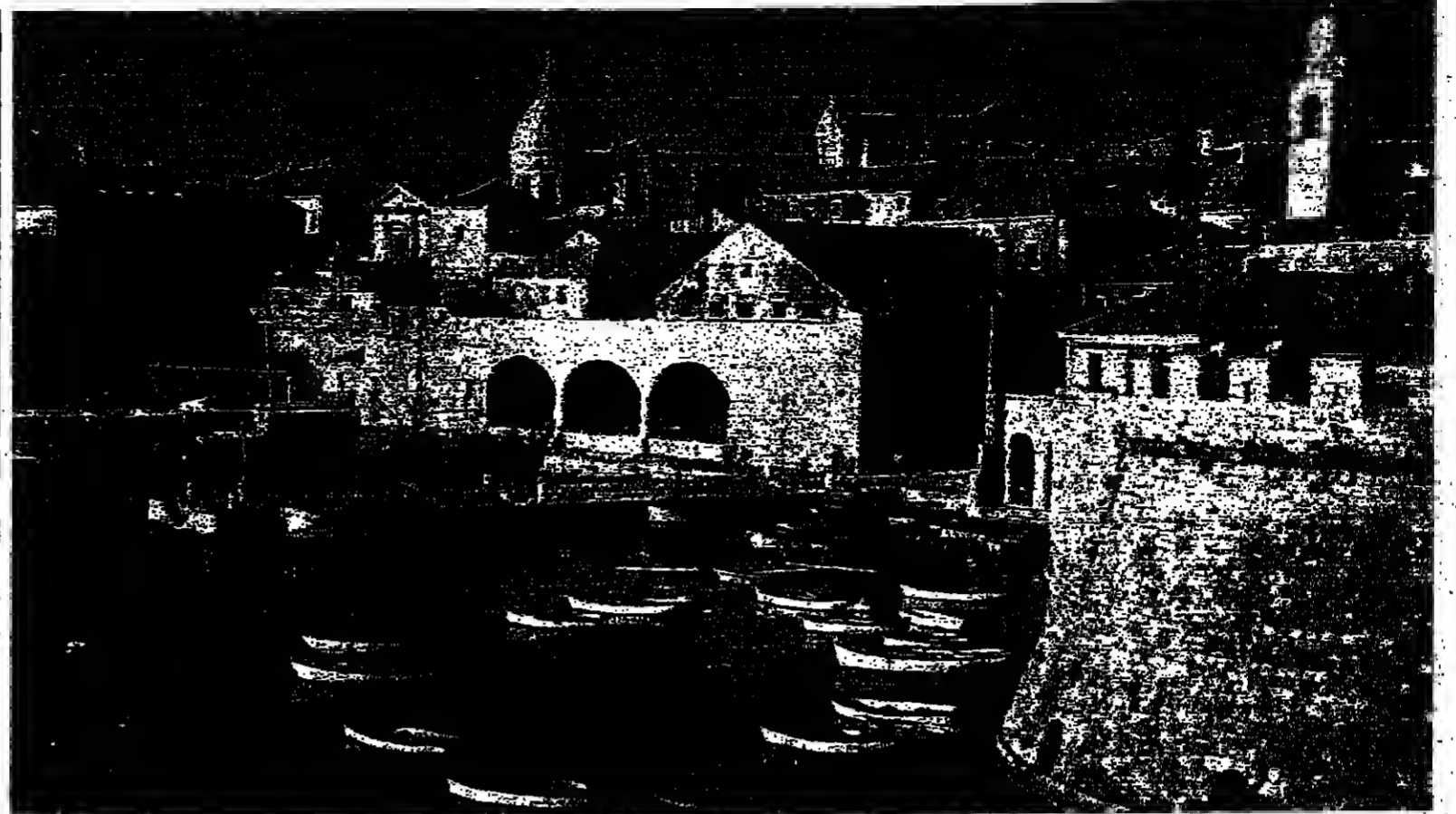
The reprimand by Mario Monti, the Commissioner responsible for the internal market, came as three German federal states looked set to face the European Court of Justice for banning the import of British beef.

Addressing an audience at Bonn University, he struck a raw nerve of the Government. "It is certainly not compatible with Germany's leading role in the process of European

integration to lag behind in this way," he said.

According to statistics, Germany has only applied 89 per cent of the measures needed to complete the European Union's single market, well behind most members. "What we need is a strong signal from Germany... and giving an example to other member states," Signor Monti said.

He mentioned Bonn's failure to implement laws on free competition in public procurement contracts. There were 54 new complaints against Bonn last year, the most against any EU state.



The harbour of Dubrovnik before it was attacked by the Yugoslav Army in 1991. The cost of restoring the city has been estimated at £178 million

## Prince inspects restoration of battered Dubrovnik

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN DUBROVNIK

THE Prince of Wales, champion of European architecture, yesterday inspected restoration work on one of the innocent victims of the Balkan war, the ancient walled city of Dubrovnik.

Wrapped in a heavy overcoat, the Prince saw how the so-called pearl of the Adriatic is slowly being pieced together again after fierce bombardment by the Yugoslav Army in 1991-92. The city, which welcomed 850,000 visitors in the year before the conflict, hopes that its shattered tourist business will soon be restored. The Prince

is the first member of the Royal Family to make an official visit to Croatia since it was recognised as an independent state by the European Union in January 1992. He was welcomed at the city's recently reopened airport by Zlatko Matasa, the Prime Minister.

Dubrovnik was first attacked, from the sea and from the mountains, by 15,000 soldiers of the Yugoslav Army, supported by Serbian and Montenegrin troops in September 1991. The worst day was in December of that year, when more than 1,000 shells fell on the city within 24 hours. Throughout the bombardment, it received more than 2,200 direct artillery hits.

The massive 15th-century city walls withstood the onslaught well, despite taking 147 hits, but 563 buildings were shelled within the city walls. 438 roofs were damaged, delicate stone carving was shattered by shrapnel, and nine buildings were destroyed. As the shells were falling, the Prince was addressing a meeting of the European Environmental Bureau in Brussels, appealing to the world not to stand idly by.

"We have no claim to regard ourselves as in any way more civilised in this day and age if we have to witness the dismemberment of a unique city like Dubrovnik," he said at the time.

Yesterday Nikola Obuljen, the Mayor, told the Prince that the cost of restoration had been estimated at \$274 million (£178 million) and the work would take 25 years. About \$30 million has so far been spent, mainly on emergency roof repairs. Among the casualties, which the Prince inspected, were a 15th-century fountain still displaying damage, the Franciscan monastery which took 37 hits, and the small baroque Festival Palace.

The Prince later flew to Split to meet British Army back-up units of the UN Implementation Force stationed at the Drville barracks. He is due to meet other British units in Sarajevo today.

## 'Atrocity' crusade endangers Bosnia deal

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE Bosnian peace process is in jeopardy due to the moral crusading of the war crimes tribunal and a potential breakdown of the Muslim-Croat Federation that is a cornerstone of the Dayton agreement, Nato officials said yesterday.

The military aspects of the Nato-enforced peace in Bosnia have taken hold with all sides withdrawing their forces from designated zones before scheduled deadlines. However, political

issues on two fronts have endangered the process.

The thorniest issue is the prosecution of war criminals. International mediators have consistently insisted that bringing suspected war criminals to justice is essential to the peace process. But Nato officials, who have to walk a fine line between two former warring factions and who must negotiate with the Serbs, say hunting war criminals is harmful to the peace process.

"It is making things very difficult. Without diminishing the importance of the work of

the war crimes tribunal, their moral crusade is premature because it is very damaging to the peace process," a Nato official said.

In a move that has outraged the Bosnian Serb leadership, Bosnian government police arrested 11 Bosnian Serbs and accused them of war crimes. The Serbs allegedly strayed into government territory. General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander, has suspended contacts with the Implementation Force until the men are released.

At the same time Nato armoured personnel carriers were deployed in Mostar to restrain a conflict between Muslims and Croats. Bosnian Croats occupied the European Union office on Wednesday, smashing windows in protest against plans to unify the town.

The flare-up threatens to undermine the coalition of Muslims and Croats brokered in 1994. The union is essential to preserving Bosnia as a single state.

Leading article, page 17

## Land of machismo gets tough on rape

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A NEW law redefining rape and introducing tougher penalties for sex offences, was greeted yesterday by Italian feminists as a sign that entrenched male attitudes towards women are changing.

After 16 years of fruitless debate on sex crime legislation, women MPs forced through a Bill overturning a Mussolini-era law defining rape as "a crime against public morality". The Bill, which has yet to pass through the Senate, describes acts of sexual violence as crimes against the person, a much more serious charge. It also guarantees legal aid for rape victims and raises the minimum sentence for convicted rapists from three years to five. The maximum sentence remains ten years.

Controversially, the new law legalises sex between consenting minors aged between 13 and 16. An earlier version had proposed legalising sex from 12 years. Catholics are still troubled by the move, and one right-wing MP and lawyer, Raffaele della Valle, of Forza Italia, denounced the provision as a "teenage free love charter".

Alessandra Mussolini, the grand-daughter of the Duce and a prominent member of the "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale, said the new law on rape was a victory for women. Maria Rita Parisi, a leading feminist and psychologist, said simply: "Italy has now joined the civil society."

## Split widens in Spanish ranks over plan for single currency

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

EMERGING doubts in Spain over European monetary union have been given vivid voice with a scathing attack by Miguel Boyer, the former Socialist Finance Minister, who helped shape the single-currency project with Jacques Delors, the last European Commission President.

Señor Boyer, who was one of the committee of "wise men" who drafted plans for economic and monetary union (EMU) in the late 1980s, denounced what he called the "idiot of Maastricht" as a ploy, with potentially devastating consequences, which would mainly benefit Germany and France. "Never has so much damage been done to so many by so few fanatics," he said.

Although Señor Boyer left office in 1996 and is now financial director of a big construction firm, his European antecedents gave weight to his anti-EMU outburst.

delivered to 500 businessmen in Madrid. His attack follows signs of wavering commitment to EMU in the Socialist Party of Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, and business worries that Spain's weak economy may doom it to a second-class existence outside the EMU bloc.

Last month Carlos Westendorp, the Foreign Minister, spoke of a crisis of confidence in Europe and aired the possibility of a delay in the planned January 1999 launch. But Señor Gonzalez and José-Maria Aznar, leader of the opposition Popular Party, are proclaiming strong commitment to EMU before next month's elections.

In Brussels and Bonn, the cracks appearing in Spain's hitherto seamless pro-European consensus are put down to fears of exclusion from the initial intake of EMU members in 1998. Spain now meets

none of the EMU criteria, although its debt ratio is close to the 60 per cent of gross domestic product prescribed in the Maastricht treaty. Its budget deficit, however, is still over double the 3 per cent of GDP required next year for entry.

Señor Boyer said "monetary union is more of a political than an economic objective. The very short calendar (to introduce the euro) could result in being so harmful that, by adhering to it, the very process of European union could be damaged."

Summing up, he said: "I do not share the dream of many technocrats and certain elite politicians of maintaining to the death a fiction about dates and conditions of convergence, hoping to catch nations by surprise with economic and monetary union, the significance and costs of which they do not know."

## French mourn end of 2CV love affair

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

SHE was hardly a thing of beauty. She was unstable. She was slow. She was cheap. But, like all the best love stories, France did not know quite how much it loved the Citroën 2CV until she was gone.

Exactly five years after the last of these peculiar vehicles trundled off the factory floor and into myth, Jacques Wolgensinger, the former press officer at Citroën, has written a book looking back over a strange love affair between a country and a car.

Entitled *The 2CV: We Were So In Love*, M Wolgensinger's is the work of a man besotted and in mourning. The 2CV's designers, he recalls, had intended to create a car that could go the same speed as a horse, or at most twice as fast, that would be economical, reliable and unglamorous, but the vehicle was widely regarded as a joke when it was first unveiled. Thousands queued up to giggle at it.

Pierre Boulanger, the inventor, had decreed that the



The 2CV, considered a joke when unveiled in 1948

car should have a bouncy suspension that would enable it to carry eggs across rough terrain without scrambling them, while being mechanically simple enough for a peasant to mend.

A grey, bulbous object, with a single headlight sticking out on a stalk and a waxy-thin body that dented alarmingly, the first 2CV, received an equivocal response when it was presented to dignitaries

and the public at the Paris motor show in 1948. "Merde alors, it is hideous," one witness remarked. The then President, Vincent Auriol, stared dubiously at the French car of the future and said "Humph" several times.

But within a very few years the 2CV had ceased to be a mere farmer's tool and had become a cherished part of the French landscape, a cult symbol that everyone could

afford. The Thompson twins in the Tintin cartoon series drive a 2CV, while in the film *Your Eyes Only* James Bond escapes in one. Brigitte Bardot drove a 2CV, and the transcontinental races involving the tough little car, which M Wolgensinger organised, increased its cachet.

M Wolgensinger reveals the 2CV in all its many shapes, colours and incarnations — converted into a boat, a bus, rolling along a high-wire and dangling from a building.

But new laws on safety and pollution spelled the end of the affair, and in the hard, fast world of car production the soft, slow, coughing 2CV could no longer keep up. The last one was made in 1990.

"Anyone who has driven a 2CV knows that it is both more and less than a car," M Wolgensinger writes. "This little motor is an expression of the soul. Along the thousand paths of the human memory, she is rolling still, unstoppable, into the eternity of remembrance and the glory of lost youth."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

# WHY MAKING BABIES IS SO DIFFICULT

Evidence suggests that the human race is becoming infertile. This weekend The Sunday Times Magazine investigates a worrying global phenomenon as more and more couples resort to costly scientific treatments to have children

**A CLASSIC CD FOR JUST £1.98**

Another great CD at a great price: The Sunday Times Music Collection continues with Brass, featuring works by 10 classical composers including Fanfare for the Common Man

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Buch... pig... he cu...

"Th... I sav... the Dies... a h... n m...



# Buchanan attacks pig factories as he cultivates Iowa

FROM TOM RHODES IN DES MOINES

PAT BUCHANAN is riding high on the hog in Iowa. The firebrand commentator rarely misses the opportunity to play to a local audience, and pigs are a big issue in the Midwest heartland these days.

During the next four days the beasts may assume a pivotal role in the nomination of a Republican presidential candidate and a place in the American psyche not seen since the release of the film *Babe*. Mr Buchanan, fresh from a stunning victory over Senator Phil Gramm in Louisiana this week, has wasted little time in focusing his campaign on the trials of the state's booming swine industry. Iowa, he says, has been invaded by giant hog lots, massive porcine warehouses where pigs are born, fed and mated, then led to the slaughter. "It's hellish bad for the environment, and I think these hog farms threaten the very existence of the Iowa family farmer," Mr Buchanan said on cue to the assembled gathering at a drab Howard Johnson motel on the outskirts of Des Moines.

He rails against the putrid odours emanating from factory farms, making the issue reminiscent of the criticism he directed against Bill Clinton in 1992 over the environmental problems caused by the Arkansas poultry industry, and depicts himself as the farmers' only ally against the cult of "efficiency and gigantism" in the heartland.

It is a popular theme for Mr Buchanan and one that dove-

tails neatly into his protectionist "America First" mantra, leading swiftly to attacks on the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation and what he claims are the false promises of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Every four years states such as Iowa that play an early and significant role in the presidential campaign manage to impose their own slanted perspective on American politics. Stirred by intimate encounters between politicians and the electorate, there is no plainer

**Republican caucuses are the perfect vehicles for the birth of an issue**

way for voters to remind presidential aspirants that they have a say in what is important.

This year, when the campaign is locked on national themes such as the flat tax, a balanced federal budget, abortion and anti-Washington sentiments, encroaching hog lots could be seen as a distracting local sideshow or, in the case of Mr Buchanan, a suitable opportunity to stomp up votes.

As Steve Forbes and Senator Robert Dole, the two main contenders for the Republican

throne, blitz the airwaves with personal attacks on each other's values and the much-vaunted flat tax, Mr Buchanan is considering a series of advertisements about pigs.

"The caucuses are the perfect vehicle for the birth of an issue," said Peverill Squire, a political scientist from the University of Iowa. "If you can find the right cause to rally people around, you have a ready-made, committed group of voters."

Although Iowa is flat and friendly and the people here still value their pork tenderloin sandwiches, the religious Right now controls more than 40 per cent of the Iowa Republican Party. Mr Buchanan, Alan Keyes, the black former UN ambassador, and Robert Dornan, the California congressman, are viewed as the only resolute pro-life candidates able to attract a consolidated evangelical vote but, along with Mr Dole and Senator Phil Gramm, they have divided the once powerful Christian vote.

Mr Buchanan, a voice for America's angry white males, who is trying to unite Reagan Democrats and former anti-government supporters of Texas millionaire Ross Perot under his banner, is hoping the Christians will also coalesce behind him, as they did in Louisiana. Experts believe his extreme views and lack of organisation are unlikely to curry favour in Iowa. However, surveys show that more than a third of the 120,000 likely to attend the 2,041 local



Pat Buchanan greets Republican supporters during his campaign tour of Iowa

precinct meetings on Monday are still undecided.

The latest poll by the University of Iowa has shown a flagging Mr Dole leading Mr Forbes by a margin of 8 per cent, with Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, Mr Gramm and Mr Buchanan running almost

neck and neck. To avoid a weak ride to the New Hampshire primary later this month, Mr Dole must gain more than the 38 per cent he achieved in 1988. The Senate Majority Leader hopes the passage of a farm Bill in the Senate this week, breaking the age-old link between farm

prices and government subsidies, will prove popular with farmers in Iowa and reinforce his lead.

That, of course, leads voters back to the tortured question of the pig and the possibility that Mr Buchanan may do better in this state than the experts believe.

# 'Broke' Clinton's secret windfall pays legal fees

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A MONTH after President Clinton claimed his legal bills had left him broke, it has emerged that he has received a secret windfall.

Several years before he won the White House Mr Clinton bought two "liability" insurance policies of a sort favoured by professionals whose work could give rise to lawsuits. The President has now quietly claimed for the cost of defending himself against sexual harassment charges filed by Paula Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, and been paid a total of \$900,000 (£584,000).

With the \$865,000 already collected by the President's legal defence fund, that payment will go a fair way towards meeting bills of more than \$2 million run up by the \$400-an-hour lawyers the Clintons have retained to defend them in the Whitewater and Jones cases.

The *Wall Street Journal*, which broke the story yesterday, said it was unclear whether Mr Clinton knew of the insurance payment when he told a White House press conference on January 11 that he was practically insolvent. "I feel badly that 20 years of hard effort and savings may go away," he said.

If Mr Clinton did know, he was clearly seeking to stir up public sympathy when he and his wife, Hillary, were facing renewed attacks over Whitewater. Robert Bennett, the head of Mr Clinton's defence team, said he had notified the two insurance companies early last year of the President's possible claims but Mr Clinton "certainly has not been focusing" on them.

It was also unclear what arguments Mr Bennett used to persuade the two insurance companies, State Farm and Pacific Indemnity, to pay up. Few liability policies explicitly cover sexual harassment, but as the *Journal* noted, "it may make things easier when the lawyer's client is the President of the US".

Ms Jones has filed a \$700,000 suit against Mr Clinton which alleges that, when he was Arkansas Governor, he asked a state trooper to bring her up to his hotel room, propositioned her and made "reckless" and "persistent" advances when she turned him down. Mr Clinton has strenuously denied her allegations.

An Arkansas judge ruled that the case could not be heard until Mr Clinton's presidency was over, but an appeals court overturned that ruling last month. Mr Clinton's lawyers plan to go to the Supreme Court if necessary to prevent the case being heard while he is still President.

Mr Bennett said he did not know whether the insurance money would cover all Mr Clinton's legal bills in the Jones case, or whether it would cover any damages against the President if the case were to succeed. It would not cover any of his Whitewater expenses. The first policy was taken out in February 1991, three months before the alleged harassment. The second was not taken out until September 1994, but it covers legal costs incurred by the President in defending himself against Ms Jones's charges that he and his aides defamed her after she filed her lawsuit.



Lois Lane dropped Superman once before, in 1958

# Lois tears a strip off Superman

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SUPERMAN, the American cartoon hero and quick-change specialist, is to be dumped by his girlfriend, Lois Lane. The split will occur on St Valentine's Day.

Sources at the New York offices of DC Comics, which produces the comic strip, said that the storyline is taking this

regrettable step because Lois is not sure she can handle Superman's unreliability. The strip will begin with Lois blinding out "I've been thinking" and complaining that "no matter how close we get, there's still a part of you that is somewhere else". Superman returns from a day's heroic deeds to find on his table the engagement ring he gave Lois in 1990.

The couple have been going out together, intermittently, since the cartoon appeared in 1938, and came to represent the chaste values of postwar America.

Martha Thomases, for DC Comics, said: "Superman will be shown to be very upset." Miss Lane, she disclosed, has received romantic attention from Peter Parker, alias Spiderman.

# 'Smoking guns' alert in US

BY QUENTIN LETTS

NEW YORK police have issued a warning to the public to beware of cigarette lighters that have been turned into James Bond-style miniature guns. They fear that a large number of the 2in by 4in weapons, which look like ordinary lighters, have been made in a clandestine operation. The lighters, whose inge-

nious construction would not discredit "Q" from the 007 films, have been nicknamed "smoking guns".

Two of the weapons, which fire a single .25mm slug, were found by a pickup-truck driver. The man tried to light his cigarette and was astonished when the "lighter" gave a sharp retort and shot a bullet within a whisker of his face. "He was lucky his brains

weren't splattered all over the place," said Detective Julio Martinez yesterday. "The bullet missed him by an inch. These lighters can kill and may misfire at any time." He said that the guns were like the "zip" guns which carried only one bullet and which were used by gangs in the old days, and said that their purpose was either self-defence or "raw aggression".

# "The money I saved running the new Hijet Diesel gave me a huge bulge in my trousers."



(£1,800)

Cor, just think of it: a van that's 3p-a-mile more economical than its nearest rival. Over 60,000 miles, that's a whopping £1,800 in your pocket. Add to that its class beating payload, cargo capacity and turning circle and you'll see why the Hijet has been What Van's 'Best Microvan' three years running. Quite a package don't you think? For your nearest Daihatsu dealer call 0800 521700.

NO NONSENSE VEHICLES  
For more information on the new Daihatsu Hijet Diesel, call 0800 521700, or visit our website at [www.daihatsu.co.uk](http://www.daihatsu.co.uk)  
Daihatsu is a member of the Daihatsu Group.  
Daihatsu is a member of the Daihatsu Group.

## ORANGE PHONES NOW COST LESS AT ESCOM

MOTOROLA m1

- Popular flip design
- Up to 11 hours standby/80 minutes talktime
- 89 name and number directory
- Desktop charger included

**NOW ONLY £29.99** inc VAT

**PLUS FREE UCI 26 CINEMAS**

To receive your free pass to a year's unlimited movies at UCI cinemas, just ask in-store for full details. Offer ends 29th February 1996.

**25% OFF ALL ORANGE ACCESSORIES WITH ANY PHONE**

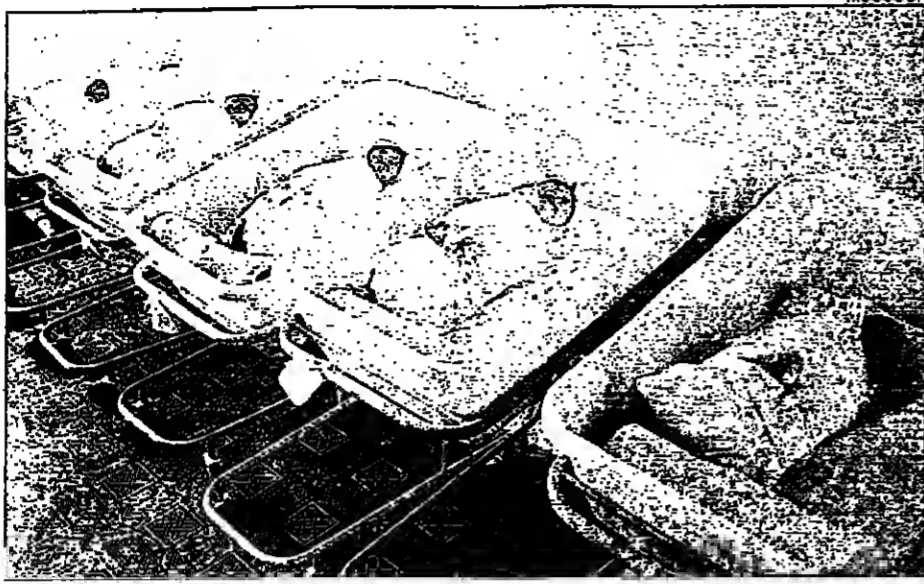
ORANGE ALSO OFFER YOU

- One year's warranty
- 12 months free insurance
- 3 year 5% population coverage

OVER 200 STORES NATIONWIDE  
FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE **0990 100888**

easyware FROM ESCOM

# The stolen babies of Lvov



Doctors made newborn babies "disappear" by erasing all traces of their existence

**Baby-smuggling is now big business in Ukraine. RICHARD BEESTON travelled there and met one of its tragic victims, brain-damaged Aleksandr Brooks, who was sent back by the Americans who adopted him**

In a forgotten corner of a Ukrainian hospital ward Aleksandr Brooks looks out from his dirty cot on a grim world he will never comprehend. His blue eyes dart from side to side in steady rhythm, his hands twitch uncontrollably and his tiny voice emits a high-pitched squeak.

He has no toys, no visitors and only the bare green hospital walls for company. The overworked hospital staff are not even sure of his name, so he is routinely called the "American baby". They say he only seems happy when he sleeps.

Seeing him there is heart-wrenching; listening to the history of his short but eventful life is even more so. Since his birth three years ago in the western Ukrainian city of Lvov he has had two mothers and two fathers, has travelled to America and back and has had tens of thousands of dollars spent on him.

Tragically for this tiny blond-haired child, the money and attention is the cause of his problems. Now brain-damaged and abandoned, he is destined to spend the rest of his years in the care of Ukraine's overstretched state institutions.

In a country crippled by poverty and post-indepen-

dence chaos, and still suffering the after-effects of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster a decade ago, the plight of one child does not rate high on the list of priorities.

But the story behind Aleksandr is ugly. It involves the

local health inspector, explains: "A terrible crime was committed against the children of Lvov by the people entrusted with their care, and this child is their most tragic victim. I hope the people responsible will be punished." Ever since he was tipped off anonymously 18 months ago, Dr Kolesnik has worked doggedly to expose a smuggling ring involving doctors, local officials, and even senior figures in the Government in Kiev.

In spite of attempts to hush up the scandal, which even led to the shooting two months ago of the chief criminal prosecutor on the case, Igor Pylypchuk, the investigation has now widened across the country. It is believed that 802 children may have been illegally sold abroad for adoption.

Lvov, a beautifully preserved medieval city of cobbled streets and towering church spires, has now been exposed as one of the most active centres of the adoption racket. Here more than 130 newborn babies have been stolen either from their mothers, or from the care of the State, and sold to American, German and Italian couples for as much as \$40,000 each.

According to documents



As many as 800 babies may have been illegally sold abroad to American, German and Italian couples

now in the hands of investigators, the principal operators were three doctors, now under arrest and awaiting trial. They preyed on destitute alcoholic and drug-addicted mothers, persuading them to turn their children over to the care of the State, before falsifying their documents and putting them up for adoption. Many of the women are too ashamed or frightened to come forward. But gradually their stories are being told.

Aleksandr's case is typical of how the operation worked.

Born on a bitterly cold December day in 1992 to Hala Pap, an impoverished single mother, the premature, 3lb baby was exactly what the dealers were looking for. It took Dr Vladimir Dorochenko, the head of the maternity centre, little effort to persuade the mother to sign away her parental rights and turn the tiny, ailing child over to his care. Once her consent was secured, the infant was removed from the intensive care unit and hidden in a flat belonging to a retired nurse.

With the child now out of sight, the birth certificate was backdated six months to facilitate adoption, and negotiations for the sale began with an American adoption agency. However, the deal was complicated on New Year's Eve when the child, deprived of the intensive care he needed, contracted meningitis and was taken to hospital with a critically high fever.

Although Aleksandr was now very sick and irreparably brain-damaged, the sale still went ahead. Complete with his new identity he was flown out of Ukraine for delivery to his new adoptive parents in Massachusetts.

The American couple, Peter and Katie Brooks, both lawyers, who operated through a licensed agency, were now landed with caring for a very sick baby. After three years of expensive medical costs in the US they sent the child back. Contacted by phone in America, the adoptive father sounded very concerned about his son's tragic fate. But he remained guarded in his replies and refused to disclose any details of the adoption, in particular how much money was paid to the agency for Aleksandr.

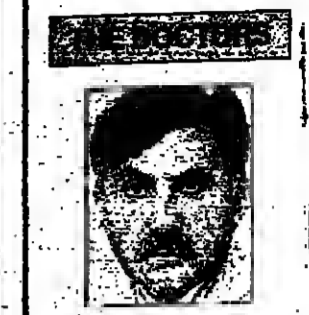
When I told him of the appalling circumstances in which I found the three-year-old, he sounded genuinely upset. He confirmed that he and his wife, who had previously adopted an American baby, had taken the decision to return the child only after long

the mounting medical bills, costing several thousand dollars a month. "We no longer had the ability financially or emotionally to provide the care required," said Mr Brooks, who added that he believed his adopted son would receive better treatment in Ukraine than in the US. "Sending him back was the hardest thing I have ever done. It was not done willingly or happily."

Although none of the Western couples adopting the children were aware that they were

hood on the southern edge of Lvov, she was pressured again and again to sign her son over to the authorities. "There was no room here at the time," she said. "I reluctantly agreed," she said. "Later they told me he had died." In fact, her son is alive. Now called Brent Hanson, he is being raised by his adoptive parents on a sheep farm in Iowa.

Natasha Osipova never meant to give birth in Lvov. Journeying by train in December 1993, she went into labour and headed for the nearest



**Vladimir Dorochenko:** As head of Lvov's main maternity centre he was known to a generation of mothers as a trusted and respected member of the city's medical profession. But after his arrest last year by police investigating the disappearance of newborn babies, he was identified as the ring-leader of a trade in children worth tens of thousands of pounds. He is suspected of falsifying the medical documents of 30 to 40 children who were then illegally sold to American couples for adoption.



**Ludmilla Ornst:** Expectant mothers due to give birth in the small regional hospital of Kamyanka-Buzka near Lvov always looked forward to a visit from Dr Ornst, the deputy head physician. A young mother of three with a kindly smile and sympathetic bedside manner, she lavished attention on the poorest girls. It was only when she was picked out in an identity parade by Natasha Osipova that her real identity was exposed. Far from being a dedicated doctor, she was a key figure in procuring babies from vulnerable women for the smuggling racket.

as Emilia Danzig of Cleveland, Ohio. The scale of the baby-smuggling operation, and evidence that corrupt senior officials collaborated by signing adoption papers, initially shocked Ukraine, where Western couples are now banned from adopting children. "Ukraine was thrown back into the Middle Ages when its neighbours took Ukrainian babies, as the Turks did to fill the ranks of their militia," said Yevhen Krasnyakov, a Communist deputy speaking at a

headed debate on the subject in the Ukrainian parliament earlier this year.

However, any hopes that the real culprits will be brought to trial or that the trade has finally been stamped out raises only a cynical shrug from most of Lvov's long-suffering people, grown used to widespread corruption and unchecked gangster rule. Part of the scepticism derives from the fact that there is no law against selling children, and the three doctors now under arrest are being investigated only for falsifying documents.

"We had eight prominent members of the city gunned down last year in gangster shootings and no one has been arrested," said Igor Pochenko, the editor of the weekly Express newspaper. "People here have become accustomed to the criminals getting away with their terrible crimes."

As for baby Aleksandr, he at least has one person who is still willing to stand up for his rights. "I am not speaking as a Ukrainian or a doctor, just as a human being," said Dr Kolesnik. "I am going to make sure that those responsible pay for their crime and that the American couple, while not criminally at fault, are made to realise they are morally guilty."

But as long as people continue to pay for children, there will always be a market for them.

## Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Personal Customers

Investment Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option		High Interest Cheque Account	Gross %	Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %			
£100,000+	5.45	4.09	5.32	3.99	£50,000+	2.75	2.06
£ 50,000+	5.20	3.90	5.08	3.81	£25,000+	2.60	1.95
£ 25,000+	4.90	3.68	4.79	3.59	£10,000+	2.50	1.88
£ 10,000+	4.50	3.38	4.41	3.31	£ 5,000+	1.50	1.13
Below £10,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38	Below £5,000	1.00	0.75

30 Day Savings	Annual Option		Monthly Option		Treasurers Account	Gross %	Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %			
£25,000+	3.90	2.93	3.83	2.87	£25,000+	3.50	2.83
£10,000+	3.65	2.74	3.59	2.69	£10,000+	3.30	2.68
£ 5,000+	3.35	2.51	3.30	2.48	£ 5,000+	2.65	1.99
Below £5,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38	Below £500	1.00	0.75

Instant Savings Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option		Headway and Young Savers	Gross %	Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %			
£25,000+	3.80	2.85	3.74	2.81	£500+	2.65	1.99
£10,000+	3.45	2.50	3.40	2.55	£250+	2.50	1.88
£ 5,000+	3.00	2.25	2.96	2.22	£100+	2.25	1.69
£ 500+	2.65	1.99	2.62	1.97	£ 50+	1.75	1.31
Below £500	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.75	Below £50	1.00	0.75

Gold Service and Asset Management Service Current Accounts	Gross %	Net %	Asset Management Service Investment Account	Gross %	Net %
£ 5,000+	1.50	1.13	£ 50,000+	5.08	3.81
£ 2,500+	1.25	0.94	£ 25,000+	4.79	3.59
£ 1,000+	1.00	0.75	£ 10,000+	4.41	3.31
Below £1,000	0.75	0.56	Below £10,000	2.62	1.97

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This notice lists current rates. GROSS - The annual interest rate before deduction of basic rate income tax (to be applied). NET - The annual interest rate after deduction of basic rate income tax. Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue. Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the Account falls within an exempt category or the Account-holder qualifies to receive interest gross.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 9 February 1996

Lloyds Bank Plc, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and FSA, represents only the Lloyds Bank Marketing Group for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business.



THE THOROUGHbred BANK.



Olga Ushakova was told her son had died, but he is alive and living in Iowa

**They preyed on the destitute, persuading them to turn their children over before selling them abroad**



Lvov, centre of the babies-for-sale ring

Why David Grey & decide to new wants back the No1 again

# Why David Storey has decided he never wants to go back to the North again

ATHOROUGHLY masculine evening at David Storey's play *The Changing Room*, revived at the Duke of York's — naked men, most on the beefy side, with all their bantering bravado — brings back memories of the days when playwrights arrived in London with attitude, gritty blokes from the grimy North...

deplorable teaching standards. Well, my principle is, as long as they're happy... That was the ethos of the time. In following the idea of equality, nothing was achieved. The head invited me to remove my children from the school. I said: 'I'm going to keep them there because I believe in comprehensive education.' Late one night I got a call from a teacher: 'I know you feel you're on your own, but there is a nucleus of older teachers who are completely behind what you're doing.' It was a three-year battle that I wouldn't want to go through again. But in the end all the changes I suggested — like homework, and proper marking — were formalised. And the school pulled round in one year, a 25 per cent improvement in exam results. Now one of my grandchildren is going to that school.

Didn't he have a firebrand reputation, being hated for biffing a critic 20 years ago in the bar of the Royal Court? I remembered this as I watched this big, gentle, quietly-spoken, white-haired man in canvas shoes, in his kitchen with wallpaper from Woolworths, making me a cup of Gold Blend. He and his wife, married for 40 years, live in one of the meaner streets of Kenilworth, their house, now that the four children have departed, is the one with a fresh coat of paint. Remind me, I said, about why you struck a critic. The play was called *Mothers Day*. The preview houses had been full. But he had a premonition that the first night would be a disaster, and it was. One of the actors' died. Michael Billington's notice in *The Guardian* began succinctly: "A stinker."

Not for the first time, a playwright was convinced that his play was killed off by critics. In the bar, where Storey was addressing the cast, he belaboured Billington about the head. "Poor old Michael," he laughs. "We've got on well, before and since." Playwrights do get above themselves. You're in a marketplace. If you don't sell the stuff on the stall, you've had it. Your whole bloody destiny is forged in the ridiculous ritual of one night. That's what makes playwrights so sensitive to criticism. It's a young person's racket.

In those days the Royal Court was constantly in ferment. But it had a cohesive policy. Slightly didactic, but it was the only place you could put on innovative writing with any kind of impact. Now, there are half a dozen theatres doing that — but there's a scarcity of new writing. Schooling at Wakefield Grammar himself, Storey sent all his children to state comprehensives, and kept them there even when others whisked their darlings away to independent havens. This is a pertinent tale, which the *Dramas* and *Blairs* might head, since at 62 he is exactly one generation older than they are.

At Hampstead Comprehensive he stood up at ETA meetings, full of indignant questions. Why had his eldest daughter, Helen, achieved one O level after years of blithe reports from her teachers? Why had there never been any homework? "Homework," he says, "was treated as almost a fascist suggestion. Some of our children told me, 'live 20 to a room, a complete lie with nowhere to do homework.' I said: 'Why not allocate them a classroom after school?' That would stigmatise them. I remember the headmaster saying, when I objected to the

He rarely goes to the theatre and meets no other playwrights. He likes the anonymity. Nor does he read newspapers or watch television. Television has turned down all my work consistently for 37 years. They turned down *Home*, with Ralph Richardson and John Gielgud, directed by Lindsay Anderson. Eventually an American TV company filmed it, and the BBC bought it for two shillings. His fatalistic, phlegmatic Yorkshire monotone remains, but having left Wakefield in 1953 he never goes back there if he can help it. Yorkshire bears no resemblance now to my memory; an imaginary Yorkshire which no longer exists. Five pits have disappeared, including the two my father worked in, and it's all been landscaped, you'd never know there'd been any collieries. I'm still engaged by the people, but there's no congruity between the present and the past. I was so longing to get away — I've never really lost that sense of glad relief at having escaped from it."

Yet having got off the train at King's Cross, where he and his wife Barbara lived in a room above a shop, "a true artist, starving for my vocation", and bought a white Jaguar for £7,500 with his first fiction prize — "drove it like a maniac and sold it for £10" — he has never left the borough of Camden. Barbara works at the local Citizens Advice Bureau, where queues of refugees, the disabled, the unemployed and the unemployable form daily. "All of them are desperate, a testimony to society. So many of their problems are utterly insoluble."

This house was to be a temporary base, but they have stayed nine years. In his first week here, he witnessed the first of several muggings; the police officer said: "You do realise you're living in a highly criminalised area, don't you?" Now, he finds a poem springs unbidden from him every day. A volume of 200 poems is with his publishers now. "I'm sure they welcome it with all the excitement of a bill through the post."

He accepts no advances or deadlines. A lengthy new novel is almost ready. Also a philosophical work about the structure of the psyche, based on his own experience. Not that he ever had a clinical nervous breakdown; he just felt, he says quite equably, "anxiety about the normal vacillations of life."



Memories are made of this... David Storey on the set of *The Changing Room*, which is being revived at the Duke of York's after 25 years

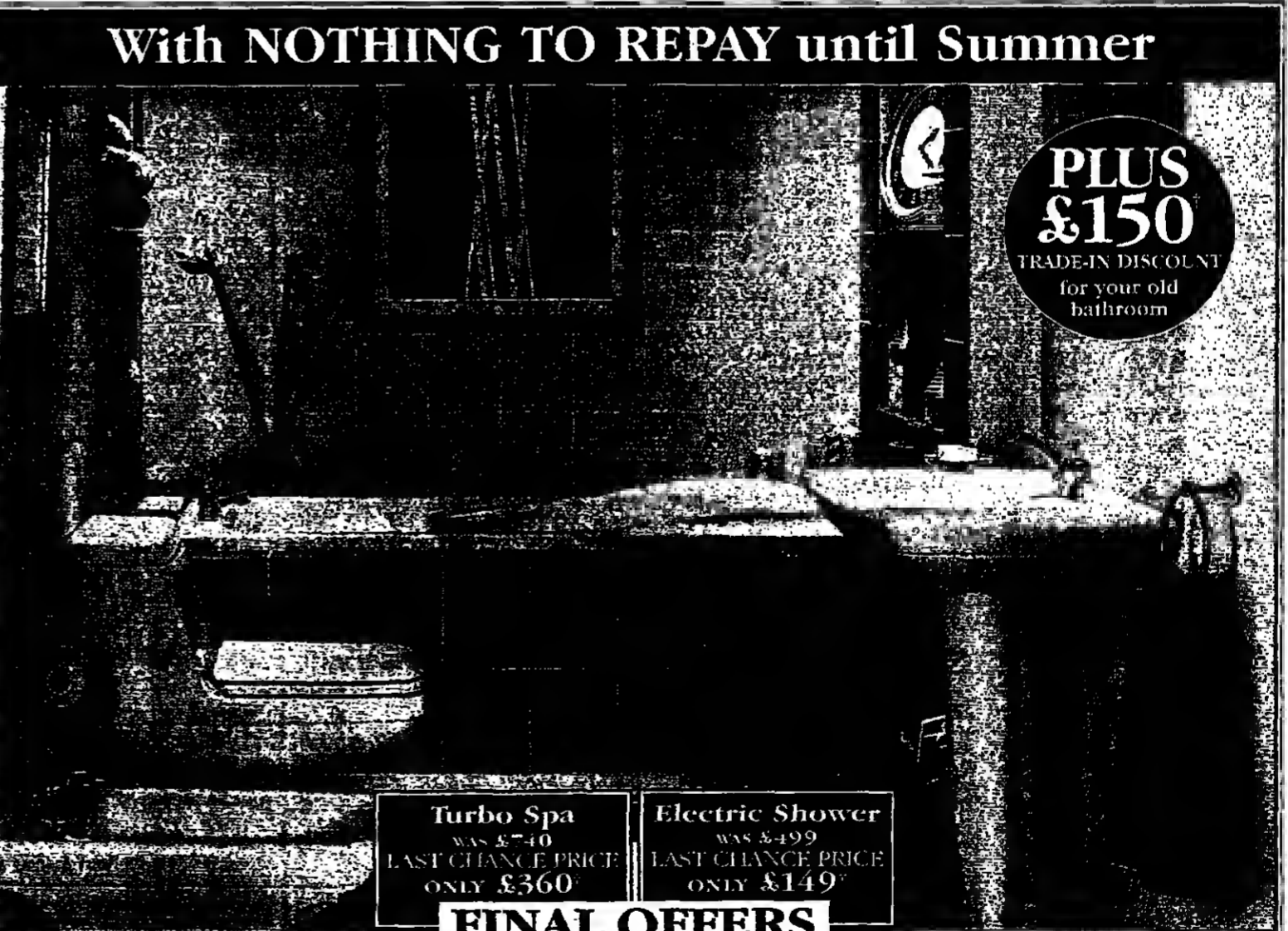
## Enter the organic carnivore

IF organic food was once the butt of gibes about beads, lentils and people employed to stick mud on to potatoes, three things have happened in recent years to make "organic" the designer label. Genetic engineers have created fruit and vegetables that look and taste like hal decorations. Television exposes have shown the horrors of modern husbandry — and BSE has made us potential co-victims of those horrors. An organic boom has resulted and Britain now has its first organic supermarket, west London's highly funky Planet Organic, where beef sales have risen 30 per cent since the BSE scare. Meat was once an expensive treat, but cheap meal became a daily requirement and standards fell to provide it; now we eat not only poor meat, but too much of it. Punters at Planet Organic have rediscovered a lost tradition: instead of a £1.50 frozen chicken every day, they buy an occasional £8 organic free-range bird, which tastes like chicken used to and cannot be carved with a spoon. Instead of a steak for £1.30 that has been subjected to BSE-friendly conditions, they buy a less frequent £3.50 steak, which tastes infinitely better. A side effect of course, of this quality-quantity trade-off will be less heart disease. Will it catch on? In my local Waitrose last night the free-range chickens were sold out, while rows of merely "fresh" fowl — pallid and swollen-breasted — were undisputed. The New Carnivore is at large, moved by respect not for poultry, but for himself.

SIGN OF THE TIMES by Giles Coren

# DOLPHIN FITTED BATHROOMS SALE EXTENDED

ALL BATHROOM SUITES STILL 50% OFF



The Dolphin Bathrooms Sale has been extended for a further 7 days. Every bathroom suite is still half price, and our unique service installs the whole bathroom

**BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS FROM INSPIRATION TO INSTALLATION**

**Turbo Spa** WAS £740 LAST CHANGE PRICE ONLY £360

**Electric Shower** WAS £499 LAST CHANGE PRICE ONLY £149

**FINAL OFFERS** WHEN YOU BUY A DOLPHIN FITTED BATHROOM

**Shower Screen** WAS £199 LAST CHANGE PRICE ONLY £75

**Gold Plated Taps** WAS £125 LAST CHANGE PRICE ONLY £40

for you - Design, planning, plumbing, joinery, electrical work, even plastering and tiling, it's all included. Don't miss the Dolphin Sale. Visit your local showroom today.

**Dolphin** FITTED BATHROOMS

SHOWROOM OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 10.00AM TO 5.30PM. SATURDAY 9.00AM TO 5.30PM. SUNDAY 10.00AM TO 4.00PM. VISIT A SHOWROOM OR PHONE FREE 0800 626717

### THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



can't attract the right kind of people. The postscript to Storey's story is that his children have done extremely well. Helen Storey built up a successful fashion design business and has been commissioned by Faber to write her autobiography — at the age of 36, her father notes. The next daughter went to Cambridge, and is now at Oxford doing research in neurobiology. His eldest son is the finance director of a shipping firm, the youngest is an aeronautical engineer.

Benedict Nightingale, page 29

Philip Howard



In the great linguistic debate, both sides claim Dr Johnson — and rightly so

The Reith lecturer has poked her stick into a hornets' nest. Out buzz the crusties swollen with venom, stinging Jean Aitchison for permissiveness about language reminiscent of the worst excesses of the Tower of Babel. They cannot have been listening to more than the first sentence broadcast by the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Languages and Communication: "Is our language sick?" Her conclusion that this question is as illogical as "Is Friday morning pink?" is common sense as well as an academic cliché. But this has not stopped prescriptivist pseudo-intellectuals spitting with rage.

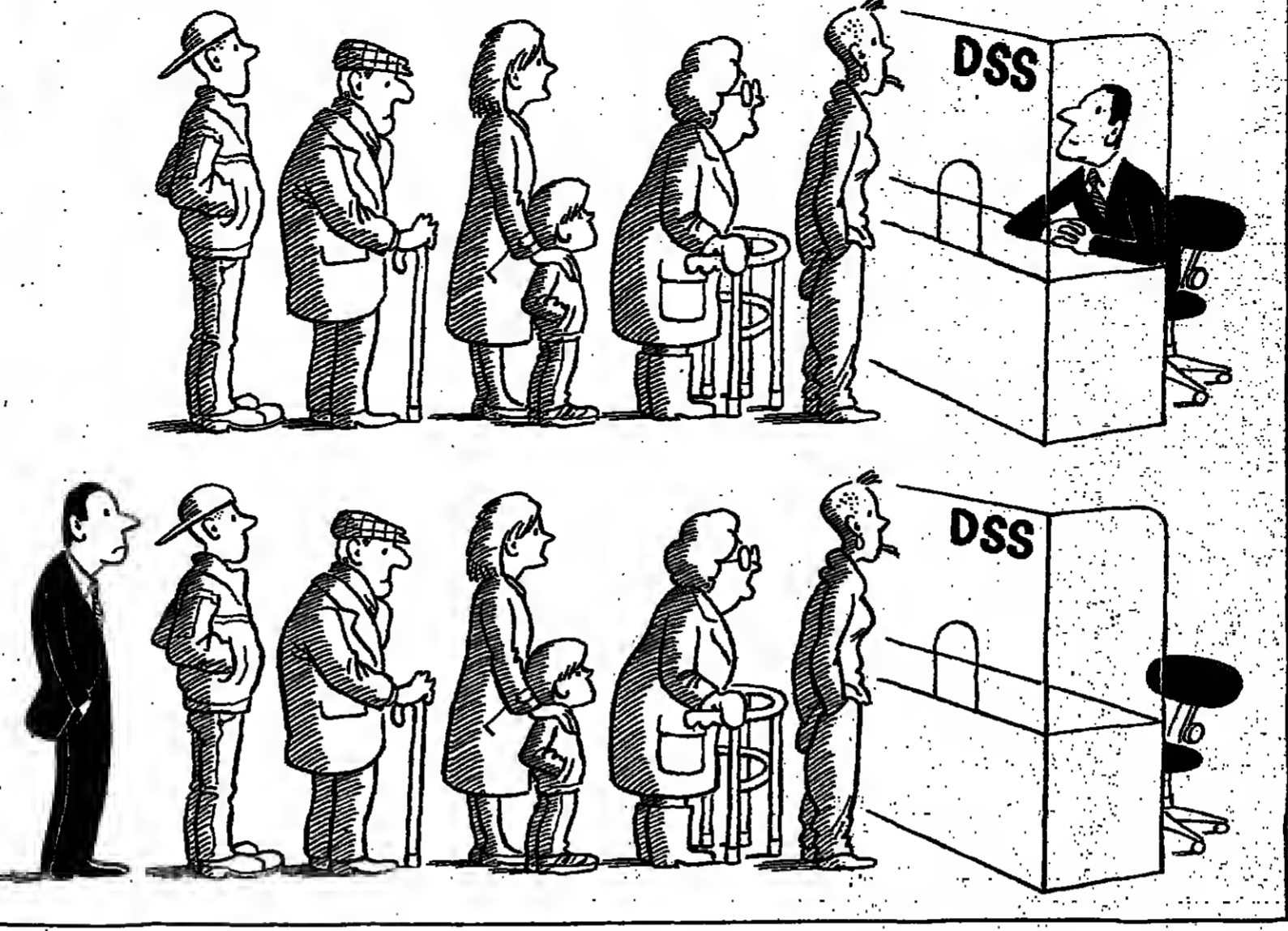
She has been abused for betraying her classical education — were it not for the fact that many classics departments have been taken over by political correctives and trends. I have yet to meet a nasty corrective in a classics department. Classicists tend to be conservative. This is not surprising when the words for revolution in their languages are "new things". So beware of classicists, Tony Blair and your "new" Labour.

Professor Aitchison is libelled in billboard type as "A woman who hates English as it is written" and attacked for her supposed politics, trendiness, linguistic relativism and split infinitives — especially for her split infinitives. Honest guys, she only did it to annoy you because she knows it teases. The best reason for avoiding split infinitives is that they drive berserk the irascible pedants who believe that language runs on tramlines rather than joyriding down the open road. You do better not to split, not because you care about their taboo, but because you care about your reputation with your audience. But English is already full of engrafted split infinitives: to overthrow, to underestimate. And there are a few sentences where the meaning can be expressed only by splitting, when a modifier such as really needs to be handcuffed to its verb. "You are too young to really remember the war." If you unsplit by putting really before to, you could be misunderstood as focusing on too young. As a reader of a grown-up newspaper, you are too sensible to really fuss about such trivia.

Who are these prescriptivists who attack Jean Aitchison for daring to suggest that there ain't no such thing as perfect English, and for enjoying its rich varieties? They are white, middle-class, middle-aged males, middle-aged temperamentally if not temporally. Most of them earn a crust by writing "Why-oh-why?" tirades for the more excitable (and paradoxically more expensive) newspapers about how the world is going to the dogs, intellectually, morally, politically — and linguistically. They misunderstand the way language works. English is the one subject on which any native-speaker can claim to be an expert. The language prescriptivists find themselves growing older in a new world, surrounded by new ideas, new words, new grammar, new fashions, and younger rivals even for the low trade of old-fogey punditry. Their problem is not the decay of English, but the male menopause.

How quaint that both sides claim Dr Johnson as their ally. Sam is like Scripture: he left so much that everyone (except a Scottish Whig) can find a supportive quotation in his work. Jean Aitchison and her critics are both right, like people describing Mont St-Victoire from opposite sides. As a poor Staffordshire boy who made good, Samuel was in awe of posh accents and "correct" grammar. His plan for the Dictionary declared: "The chief intent is to preserve the purity and ascertain the meaning of our English idiom." But by the time he had wrestled with his definitions for years, he had come to see that the notion of preserving the purity of a language was a will-o'-the-wisp. So in his Preface he changed his aim, to "not form, but register the language". Jean Aitchison is following in her master's footsteps, but there is far more language in different varieties than when Dr Johnson laid down the principle: masters of the shifting language record it rather than laying down rules. Johnson would have loved his blue-stocking professor as a woman with a bottom of good sense. And when vile Whiggish pedants sniggered, he would have put them down: "Where's the merriment? I say the woman is fundamentally sensible."

Alan Brookes 9 11 96



No immunity now

Advance attempts to discredit Scott and his inquiry cannot obscure the depths to which this Government has sunk

We are on the eve of the Scott revelations — I understand that they take the form of a very thick book — and you do not need to be a cynic like me to know that many people who will be discussed in its pages are now piling up the sneers, the rubbings, the attacks and all the various reasons why Sir Richard Scott is wrong, pig-headed, lazy and ignorant. Indeed, before the magician opens his box there will be several suggestions that Scott has been insane for some time, and not a few more that he has been bribed. But I don't really need to mock the Scott tremblers, because there are so many of the real ones who are now busy lying, cheating and running away that Scott will have to write another book soon.

The bits and pieces are numerous — well, that is why the story has taken three-and-half years to unfold. I do not intend to go through those bits and pieces; there will be dozens of blood-hounds — hundreds — clutching this document or that denial, and I propose to step back from the gigantic hurly-burly and think of what this story really tells us. For the length is deep and the depth is long. Let me start with a minor figure, but one who embodies much of the story. He is Lord Howe of Aberavon, formerly Geoffrey Howe. Picking up a copy of The Spectator, I find an article by him covering many pages and — no joke — several thousand words. Now what has come over the old Spectator, that it allows onto its pages matter doubly unreadable — once for its length and twice for its prose? We find the answer very quickly: our Geoffrey has got wind of what Scott is jingling in his pockets. Yes, but why should he be the standard-bearer for those who are marked men? It shows great generosity, does it not? For these are interesting words:

The Scott inquiry is not a tribunal upon whose judgment the reputation of anyone should be allowed to depend. I write those words with regret and with a full realisation that no one should pronounce such a verdict without having given careful thought to its consequences... I sincerely believed myself when I complained initially that this was an inquiry at which — as never before — defence lawyers may be seen but not heard... Many others who appeared before Scott share this perpetual and resentful view of their treatment. Since their reputations could be severely tarnished by the

outcome, the flaws I have described give serious cause for legitimate concern. I'll huff and I'll puff and blow your house down. For nowhere — nowhere — amid the scores of paragraphs that spill out in this dreadful screed does our hero tell us — or admit — that he himself has been up before the bar: Lord Geoff has already been rebuked, albeit very mildly, by Sir Richard Scott. No wonder he was spluttering. (But Boris Johnson, of The Daily Telegraph, should be ashamed of himself for joining the gang who are trying to rubbish Scott.) Now we are told that Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, is the first one for the chop. I would like a front row seat at any price, but I think that in this case there is more to a lousy lawyer than we can see for the moment. Suppose Lyell quits or is pushed; a considerable sigh of relief will, or at least should, be heard. But even I, the man who despises Lyell most, am willing to say that if Lyell is going to be the fall-guy, a very shocking miscarriage of judgment will have taken place. And I assure you that in the days to come there will be very many similar miscarriages of judgment.

Do you care greatly, readers, about the Matrix Churchill business? I am sure that many of you are thinking that it is something about Winston Churchill — perhaps another statue is to be raised. I don't care much about the Matrix etc, but I follow it not because of its depressing details, nor because I am looking forward to Scott's bag of toff-apples, but because it tells me as clearly as Big Ben that the Scott report is yet another nail in the coffin of this purblind Government. Before Scott pulled down the blinds (and remember that there was a very long and mercurious series of statements before Scott finished his open version of what happened in Matrixtime), the whole story pivoted upon the

fact that men from a British company, involved in selling arms, some of which would go to the evil Saddam, were simultaneously bringing back useful — indeed vital — knowledge. In the melee there were arrests, largely of the wrong people, and under the bonedheads of MI6 (what bonest what heads!) it seemed that nobody had had enough sense to give a wink and a nod and shuffle off a couple of dozen Matrix Churchills when nobody was looking. Even then, sense could have reigned, but it didn't. With a crash of cymbals, those who were there to straighten out the nonsense called up the nonsense instead: "public interest immunity certificates" were waved (would that they had been waived instead), and from that moment the tide could never be turned. Folly, stupidity and incompetence reign in this story. And something else. That ghastly business of the signing of the dirty certificates (which, incidentally, will finish Lyell off) means that only Heseltine remains in the clear (don't worry, he won't let us forget), and the rest are tarred with the dirt of the certificates. I have repeatedly said that "public interest immunity certificates" (or "gagging orders") are never in the public interest, but are always and only for the use of ministers and their minions who are trying to cover up something scandalous. (See, for instance, the attempt by Virginia Bottomley and Gillian Shepherd to bring up their appalling conduct with gagging orders and other documents concerning the dangers of listeria.)

So why do I wish to add my fourpence, when we are almost on the eve of the real thing? They say it is a very thick book. I say the thicker the better. I am not going to explain what Scott tells us; he will make it very clear, I am sure. So why am I poking my nose into things that will be fully poked within days? It is because I have to deal with what is left over: the wrappings of the sweets, the spent candle-ends, the pips and the husks. For I assure you that very soon we shall all be up to our knees in rubbish. Oh, that's even less than nothing. Already, the Prime Minister has announced that he will not act on any of Scott's findings. True, when Scott's inquiry was set up, the Prime Minister had no objections, and gave Scott everything he wanted. But now, it might make his rancid Government look a little shakier than it is already, so our brave PM looks the other way when Scott is mentioned. And he needs to, because it is clear that Scott will criticise him — very mildly, as with Howe — but the Prime Minister too has another small stain on his already soiled escutcheon.

And the snowball grows larger as it rolls down the hill. Try a few headlines: "Ministers start Scott damage limitation"; "Sir Nicholas Lyell is likely fall guy"; "Revealed: Scott report leak puts ministers in firing-line on arms sales"; "Lyell and Waldegrave will fight resignation calls on Scott report"; "And, going back some time: 'Lyell blames officials over PII certificates' (he would)"; "In Whitehall, preparations are well under way for a fierce rebuttal of the findings"; "Scott leaks 'aimed at limiting government damage'". But I have nurtured, right through the years of Scott, one passage that I have kept one paragraph that I wish I had written myself. It is by Michael Jones of The Sunday Times, and this is what he said:

The fundamental issue is this: What happened in the Matrix Churchill case threatened the rights of every British subject to a fair trial and the individual's enshrined protection from arbitrary arrest and loss of liberty. Magna Carta and all that flowed from it guaranteed no less. So what happens in the Scott inquiry and after matters deeply. At one level we find exposed those arcane parts of government that seldom see the light of day and only attract our attention when they publicly crash gears, as they did over the Matrix Churchill case. At a deeper level, we see a mind-set rooted in self-interest, self-esteem and authoritarian precepts that threaten us all.

I eagerly await my copy of the Scott report. And I await, not eagerly, the realisation that whatever happens now, we shall have taken yet another step into the pit.

heading for the great division lobby in the sky. Bob gave me a huge thwack on the back and the potato just came flying out," Hayes says. "Alastair Goodlad [the chief whip] was eating at the next table. He turned quite pale."

Australia and the West Indies will not be prepared to play their World Cup cricket matches in Colombo, but Asian schoolboys will not be missing out. A new computer game enables them to programme any combination of players they like to compete at any of the continent's grounds, in whatever conditions — and even to decide the outcome of the tournament.

Spud upping JOHN MAJOR'S fragile majority of four almost suffered a damaging blow late on Wednesday night, when Jerry Hayes succumbed to the dangers of dining at the Commons. The Tory MP with the golden locks and a predilection for tacky late-night television studios, chucked on a roast potato in the Members' Dining Room. It stuck in his gullet, he could not breathe and had it not been for the swift action of a fellow diner, Tory MP Robert Hughes, the bearded Hayes might have been

Tina Turner: roar spot

counters with the raunchy rocker. Tina Turner has already done her bit in the recording studio," says the Choir School's Headmaster, Stephen Drew. "The boys will record their backing in the cathedral, and the tapes will be edited together." King Husain of Jordan has an eye for a bargain. At a powerboat show in LA this week, he was taken with a nippy vessel with a top speed of 100mph and a \$400,000 price tag. He offered cash and had \$10,000 knocked off.



France — where you either are or are not part of "le gratin", the crust of society — has its own form of snobbery, an intellectual brand, which means that if you are not an Enarque, a product of the top stream of the grandes écoles, advancement is unlikely. "The aristocracy no longer counts, but the meritocracy has given us a new class system," said Stéphane Crauzat, head of the French Institute in Edinburgh. "Where you went to school is all-important. Perhaps, after all, and almost without realising it, Britain is less impressed by its class system, less strangled by its old school tie, than some of its European neighbours. A merchant banker in London, who told me that at one stage an Eton and Oxbridge education was almost a sine qua non in his organisation, now takes most of his recruits from Newcastle University. He reckons that in the jungle of the financial world today, a recommendation about someone's boy passed on over the brandy in Brooks's is almost counter-productive. If a candidate needs that kind of help, perhaps he isn't much good. Another friend of mine, who interviews job applicants in a multinational company, said that recommendations from friends or relations were noted, but rarely played any part in the final decision. How odd, therefore, that they still seem to work in the freebooting world of the fourth estate. A case, perhaps, for a Fleet Street version of Lord Nolan's inquiry.

Mugging up

JONATHAN AITKEN, who left the Cabinet to spend more time with his libel lawyers, is certainly doing his homework. He has been checking up on George Carman, QC, the ferocious Great Defender, who is expected to give the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury a grilling when his action against The Guardian comes to court. He has spent large chunks of this week in the public gallery of Court 13 at the High Court, watching Carman's every move in his defence of the Daily Mirror in the case brought against it by a surgeon whom the paper dubbed "Dr Dolittle". Aitken, who declared last year that he was leaving the Government to fight "the cancer of bent and twisted journalism... with the simple sword of truth and the trusty shield of fair play", issued writs against The Guardian and World in Action over accusations about his relationship with members of the Saudi Royal Family and his business links with two Lebanese businessmen. He has been very attentive at this week's High Court show. "Carman was doing his I shall ask you one more time and then I shall move on" act. Aitken was

grinning a lot," says one spectator. However, Aitken denies suggestions that he was there to get the measure of the man who has won cases for Jeremy Thorpe, Ken Dodd and Elton John. "No, no, no, nothing like that," he explains. "There are lots of things that are very interesting about the case. It's a case with important ramifications. My own counsel, Charles Gray told me about it."

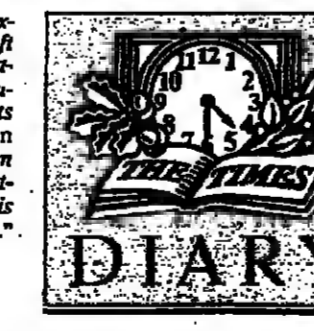


Carman the Great Defender

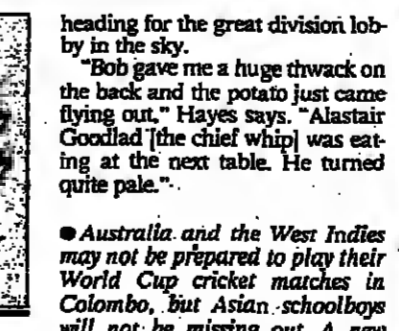
Those crusty individuals, Oxford college porters, have a soft spot for even the most disreputable of their former undergraduates. When discussing the exploits of a flamboyant Old Etonian undergraduate, one Magdalen porter was overheard saying wistfully: "The college hasn't seen his like since that Darius Guppy..."

Bluffery

THE MYSTERY that surrounds the identity of the author of Primary Colours: A Novel of Politics, the barely disguised account of the 1992 Clinton campaign, is being stirred up by the English writer Christopher Hitchens. The anonymous book has caused a storm in the States, with its fictional Governor Stanton, his steady wife Susan and a Genifer Flowers character known as "Cashmere McLeod". On Wednesday in Washington, Hitchens — who famously attacked Mother Teresa in his book The Missionary Position — astonished browsers at a downtown bookstore by signing copies of the book. And yesterday he said his own article in the current issue of The New York Review of Books, which speculates on the book's authorship, was a "double bluff". "I am very much looking forward to being the guest of honour



at the party for the book," he said. A weary voice from Random House, which refuses to name the author, adds: "He has been talking about going on a publicity tour soon, preferably to Palm Beach." Sounds like a triple bluff.



Treble chance TINA TURNER, she of the huge hair and the strut, is to be backed on her next record by a host of heavenly choirboys. One of the tracks on her next CD needs boy trebles, so ten choristers from Durham's Cathedral Choir School have been chosen to accompany her. The boys, aged between 10 and 12, are being rehearsed by the cathedral's sub-organist Keith Wright. But sadly, they will not be able to chatter in the dorm after lights-out about any personal en-

Snobs — but not nepotists

Magnus Linklater says Britain isn't so class-ridden after all

A friend just starting in journalism was explaining to me last week how helpful his public school background was proving. His upper-class accent and his eminently recognisable surname, he said, had not only given him an entrée to the profession, it had allowed him to land a good royal story which had pleased his editor and given him a couple of rungs start on the promotion ladder. The old school tie, he assured me, had been a great asset. I found that faintly depressing. Are a phony accent and a few useful connections still the keys to preferment in Britain, like being given a gold credit card at birth? It is more than five years since John Major announced his commitment to a classless society, and rather more than that since Margaret Thatcher apparently swept aside the old-boy net in favour of the barrow-boy culture, so allowing talent, enterprise and red braces free rein in Britain, irrespective of accent. Yet here we are, apparently still mesmerised by the discreet charm of the aristocracy. In some ways, it seems almost as if we have been going backwards. At the same age, and roughly the same stage in journalism, I remember desperately trying to conceal any hint of privileged upbringing, flattening my vowels and emphasising my simple peasant ancestry in order to convince my news editor that I was one of the lads. Putting on airs didn't get you far on the reporters' desk in those days, but then that was Manchester and those were the 1960s. Today, the Hugh Grant style seems once again to be a passport to success.

Recently, however, I stumbled across heartening evidence that this may be a superficial view, and that in some ways Britain is far less bothered by class, nepotism or social contacts than many other countries in Europe. Investigated in the latest issue of the Bristol University magazine, Non-such, Professor Gianni Angelini, an Italian, who is now a leading heart surgeon in this country, says that in his experience, Britain is "the most open society in Europe, encouraging talent and skill without regard to background or influence in ways that would be inconceivable in his native Italy."

Angelini, who began his academic career at the University of Siena, set out to study medicine with only a diploma in mechanical engineering. When he arrived in Britain he could not speak a word of English, yet today he holds the British Heart Foundation Chair in Cardiac Surgery and heads Bristol University's newly opened Heart Institute. "I couldn't have achieved any of this if I had stayed in Italy," he says. "The Italian system is too nepotistic. To climb the ladder it doesn't matter how good you are. If your father was a professor, you have a pretty good chance of being a professor. If your father was a lorry driver, like mine, I'm afraid you have a bit of a problem."

The professor told me that in Italy, where there is a surplus of 40,000 doctors, a foreigner "doesn't stand a chance". But worse than that, the medical world is in tightly gripped in the hands of a small number of professors at the top dictating all new appointments. Connections are vital. "The medical system is influenced by the political system, and very few university appointments are open to selection," he said. "This means that there is very little competition." Promotion tends to be based on the Italian equivalent of Buggins' turn. "It is like an inherited disease," says Angelini, "only the degree of the disease gets worse."

The professor has encountered none of that in Britain. From the start his progress was dictated by merit alone. One of the things that has impressed him most is the absence of political string-pulling here. "In Italy you have to be supported by a political party even to apply for a job as a road-sweeper. It's who you know that counts. Here I don't even know the name of my local MP."



## THREE COUNTRYMEN

Rural landscape has changed more than the political

It is as often a cause for alarm as celebration when the country's leaders all agree. Policies as unhappy as appeasement and the ERM have enjoyed a cross-party consensus in the past. But some worthy causes have also secured all-party backing. Sixty-seven years ago *The Times* was happy to publish a letter signed by the leaders of Parliament's three biggest parties pledging to preserve the best of rural England. Today we are pleased to reprint the same sentiments endorsed by the three men who lead the same parties. If only the countryside were as unchanging as the politicians' pieties.

John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown repeat, almost verbatim, the hopes outlined by their predecessors. Stanley Baldwin, Ramsay MacDonald and David Lloyd George, in 1929, on the eve of another famous election when Labour was looking to make an historic breakthrough. It is perhaps unsurprising that the current leaders feel able to echo so exactly the call for sensitive development and thoughtful conservation of another generation for they are, so strikingly, the heirs of Baldwin, MacDonald and Lloyd George.

Mr Major, is like Baldwin, an unshowy representative of Middle England who has coped stoically with royal scandal and appealed lyrically to our nostalgic sense of nation, substituting warm beer and old maids for ploughmen and scythes. Mr Blair, like MacDonald, is a rightwinger with a cautious Shadow Chancellor; Mr Blair, like MacDonald, seems happier in Establishment salons than in his own party. Mr Ashdown, like Lloyd George, combines grand rhetoric with a taste for the flashy and a special sympathy for the female sex.

Yet while these aspects of the political landscape seem surprisingly little changed, the shape of our countryside has been dramatically altered since 1929. The auto-

mobile's appetite for land, the mechanisation of farming and the twisted priorities of the common agricultural policy have combined to drive the England of Baldwin's boyhood to the margins of our memories. Village life, its rhythm surprisingly constant from the Anglo-Saxons to The Archers, has never been more changed: small shops are displaced by supermarkets, property prices are driven up by city refugees and public transport worsens.

Steps have been taken by the party leaders to enact policies in line with the principles to which they put their names. Last October the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, published a thoughtful White Paper on the Countryside which promised steps to safeguard village life: he has also worked hard to conserve rare species. The abandonment of many road-building schemes announced last November should also be applauded. It may be more a matter of conserving taxpayers' money than the land but it is welcome nevertheless. The main Opposition parties have been constructive critics of the roads programme. It is a pity a good case has so often been spoilt by the antics of protesters whose lifestyles mock the traditional virtues of the countryside they claim to protect.

Aside from sustaining sensitive development there is one other service that politicians could do rural people if they sincerely wish to see "the protection of our countryside in its rich personality and character". The modish metropolitan enthusiasm for a ban on fox hunting should be opposed. A recreation enjoyed by country folk of every class, as much part of the personality of rural England as its hedgerows and Norman churches, it is a liberty worth defending. The English character may be suburban but its roots are rural. Those roots require nurturing, not just casual neglect and the occasional agreement to agree.

## Party unity on the countryside

From the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party

Sir, In 1929, at the inception of the Council for the Protection of Rural England's appeal for public support, our forebears, Stanley Baldwin, J. Ramsay MacDonald and David Lloyd George, pledged their support for the English countryside in a letter to *The Times*. In the year of CPRE's seventieth anniversary, we are pleased to make that commitment again.

During the next few months we shall differ on so many problems of public importance that we gladly take the opportunity of showing that on one subject we speak with a united voice — namely, in advocating the protection of our countryside in its rich personality and character.

We do this in the full confidence that necessary development can and should be directed with thoughtful and scrupulous attention to the charm of our countryside. Much of its beauty is the direct result of man's activities in the past and in these days when the objectives of planning and land management and the appreciation of landscape are more widely shared than ever before, we ought to be able to make necessary changes in ways that avoid injuring our precious heritage.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

JOHN MAJOR,

TONY BLAIR,

PADDY ASHDOWN,

As from the Council for the Protection of Rural England,

Warwick House,

25 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.

February 8.



OBITUARIES

THE MOST REV DEREK WORLOCK

The Most Rev Derek Worlock, CH, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, died yesterday from lung cancer aged 76. He was born on February 4, 1920.

The 52-year ecclesiastical career of Derek Worlock straddled the period of greatest upheaval and adjustment in the recent history of the Roman Catholic Church. Fortunately, most of it happened at a time when he was still young enough to adapt to it himself.

His remark in 1968 that avoidance of "patriarchy" was "not the acid test of Christianity" while irreproachably orthodox nonetheless expressed an English attitude which soothed the handling of that divisive issue among Catholics in the decades ahead.

By far the greater part of his influence was exercised out of sight. Those who oblige others to compromise are themselves liable to be the target of others' frustrations, and Worlock sometimes felt the weight of that.

His remark in 1968 that avoidance of "patriarchy" was "not the acid test of Christianity" while irreproachably orthodox nonetheless expressed an English attitude which soothed the handling of that divisive issue among Catholics in the decades ahead.

Worlock was the only Roman Catholic pupil during his time at Winton House preparatory school. After his studies at St Edmund's College, Ware, he enrolled at the seminary at Allen Hall to train for the priesthood.

His discreet and conscientious manner had impressed the authorities at Allen Hall, who identified him as a potentially gifted administrator: possibly his father's example as an "organisation man" within the Tory party had shaped his operating style.

He was made a Monsignor at 29, a very early age, and served to the end of

Cardinal Griffin's life and throughout his successor's reign. On Cardinal Godfrey's death in 1963, Worlock remained to help to settle in Archbishop (later Cardinal) Heenan, but had clearly earned himself a more senior rank.

There he developed a surprising ministry for down-and-outs, and established a pastoral service for the Irish immigrants who sometimes arrived homeless and penniless at London railway stations.

Worlock was of all people, probably the most intimately involved in the English presence at the Second Vatican Council, both as the secretary to the English cardinals who successively took part and as a *peritus*, or official consultant, in which capacity he interested himself in defining and developing the role and status of the Catholic laity.

The most immediate English product of the council was the setting up of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in place of the more *ad hoc* structure of the English hierarchy, and as Bishop of Portsmouth he was the ideal choice as its first episcopal secretary.

Worlock kept his bridges intact in all directions, including the London intellectual Roman Catholic scene where dissent was most outspoken and organised.

His years at Portsmouth were successful locally, with unprecedented ecclesiastical co-operation and the projection of an image for the Roman Catholic Church in local political and civic affairs that was

well received. He took on a programme of renewal of the local church institutional life that was a model of how things could be done, with lay people closely involved in a structure of consultation at parish, deanery and diocesan level.

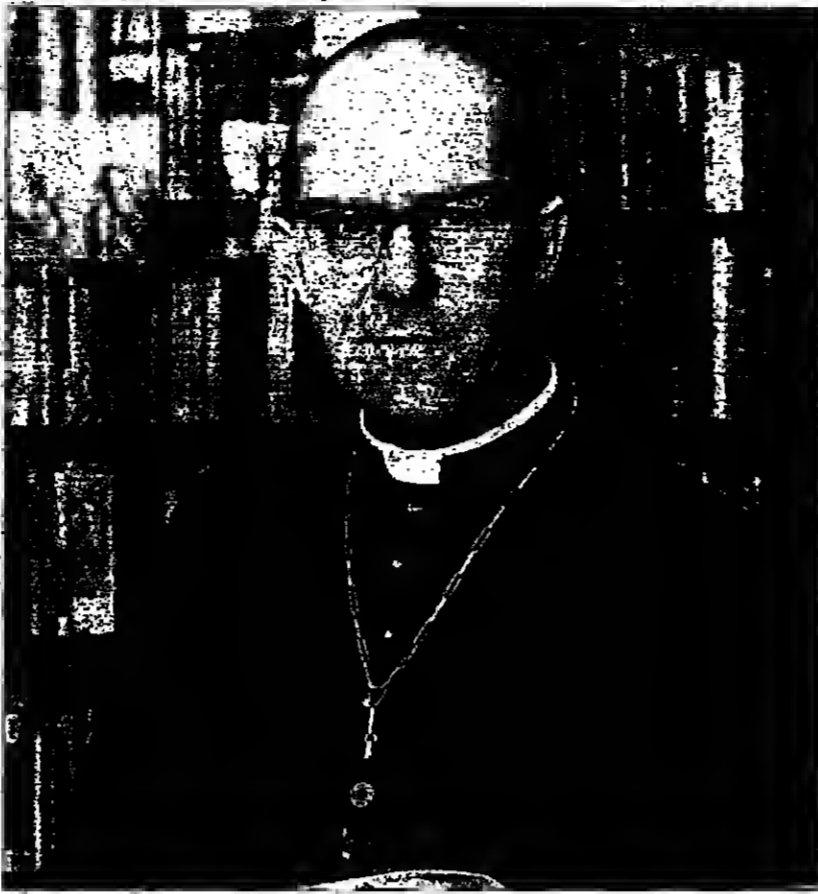
Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

On Worlock's translation to Liverpool, it was a natural progression for him to move from the post of episcopal secretary of the national conference of bishops to being its vice-president. This maintained his fruitful relationship with Cardinal Hume, who became president at about the same time.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.



Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

supported the idea in its sometimes awkward gestation period, presided over the complex preparations, moved smoothly round behind the scenes while it was taking place, attending to the fine-tuning, and brought the bishops afterwards to the point where they could endorse, as their Hillsborough, brought massive grief and notoriety to Liverpool in the 1980s.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

Worlock was an obvious candidate for Westminster on the death of Cardinal Heenan, though his long service as private secretary to three previous incumbents had left him with a reputation, unfairly, as a hatchet man who had to carry out tough decisions on behalf of his superiors.

RONALD FLETCHER

Ronald Fletcher, radio broadcaster, died on February 6 aged 85. He was born on July 10, 1910.

RONALD FLETCHER was a BBC radio newsreader of the old school, the possessor of a well-modulated, light tenor reading voice which reminded one listener of a highly polished walnut table.

There was something of the gentleman amateur about Fletcher. He was not overly ambitious, and work was done to finance his real loves: of horse-racing and golf. On one occasion in 1963 he caused a wave of hysteria to ripple

through the studios when he forgot his appointment at the microphone altogether (he was having breakfast), leaving a flustered sub-editor to read the 9am bulletin. There was, too, a little of the frustrated actor about him. He would occasionally suggest to Nigel Rees, the presenter of *Quote... Unquote*, that he be trying reading a certain quotation in, say, a cockney accent.

The son of a chartered accountant, Ronald Fletcher inherited wealth from his grandfather who owned coalmines in the North of England. After schooldays at Shrewsbury, he read English at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

Back in civilian life, with no money, but with a splendid voice and great self-confidence, he joined the BBC. This was the late 1940s, and Fletcher was employed first on the Light Programme and then on the serious news bulletins of the old Home Service.

His fortunes improved dramatically when he joined up with the Canadian actor Bernard Braden. In 1950 Braden had launched his own radio series, *Bradens with Braden*, followed by *Bedtime with Braden*. These were new, informal types of comedy show, and provided a showcase not only for glamorous personalities of the day, like Braden's wife Barbara Kelly, but for the talents of young writers such as Frank Muir and Denis Norden.

Fletcher frater away his inheritance at the races, and in a string of failed business ventures. During the war he served in an anti-aircraft regiment, but he was not a natural soldier.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BRIAN MADDEN

Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Madden, DSO, died on January 13 aged 87. He was born on December 1, 1908.

BRIAN MADDEN was second-in-command of the 6th (Territorial) Battalion The Black Watch when it arrived in Tunisia in 1943 and took over command when its CO was mortally wounded on April 12. He was awarded the DSO for the bravery and flair with which he then conducted a series of hard battles.

Brian John George Madden was educated at Wellington, from where he went to Sandhurst in 1927. His father had died of wounds sustained in 1915 while commanding the 1st Battalion The Irish Guards, and he spent much of his youth with his mother's family, the Macpherson Grants of Ballindalloch. Here he learnt of his ancestor, William Grant, who in 1725 had raised one of the independent companies from which The Black Watch was formed in 1739; he was commissioned into the regiment in 1928.

Madden was a supremely effective tactician and leader. He had the incisive mind of the chess and bridge-playing mathematician he was. He had complete disregard for his personal safety and it was typical of his style of leadership that as the order to go into the attack at Cassino was awaited he was walking up and down among his men, unperturbed even when a shell splinter nicked his chin. This was not bravado, but his way of showing his men that he shared their dangers.

He was a man of great humanity. He had no truck with those who counted the "bag" of the enemy dead like so many brace of grouse. He felt as much compassion for their wives and mothers as for the families of British casualties. He spared no effort to win in battle, but he was determined that war should not coarsen those who had to wage it. His own lifestyle verged on the austere; though he himself had no taste for rumbustious and rude relaxation, he never begrudged others their fun.

In 1948 he became assistant superintendent of the Middlesex Hospital, and later secretary of the St Helier group of hospitals. He retired in 1974 and was then a governor of the Royal Star and Garter Home until 1984. In 1969 he had married an army widow, Mary Cummings. She died in 1989 and he is survived by a nephew and two stepchildren.

He had the incisive mind of the chess and bridge-playing mathematician he was. He had complete disregard for his personal safety and it was typical of his style of leadership that as the order to go into the attack at Cassino was awaited he was walking up and down among his men, unperturbed even when a shell splinter nicked his chin. This was not bravado, but his way of showing his men that he shared their dangers.

He had the incisive mind of the chess and bridge-playing mathematician he was. He had complete disregard for his personal safety and it was typical of his style of leadership that as the order to go into the attack at Cassino was awaited he was walking up and down among his men, unperturbed even when a shell splinter nicked his chin. This was not bravado, but his way of showing his men that he shared their dangers.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Very many of our readers have possibly never heard of a singular duty which the Lord Great Chamberlain is bound to perform on the opening day of each Session. It is enacted by an order inscribed upon the Journals of the House of Lords that a few hours before Parliament meets, this high functionary shall, either himself or by his deputy, carefully search the vaults under the House and see that no Guy Fawkes with his dark lantern and barrels of powder, lies in wait with fell intent to blow up the Three Estates...

Very many of our readers have possibly never heard of a singular duty which the Lord Great Chamberlain is bound to perform on the opening day of each Session. It is enacted by an order inscribed upon the Journals of the House of Lords that a few hours before Parliament meets, this high functionary shall, either himself or by his deputy, carefully search the vaults under the House and see that no Guy Fawkes with his dark lantern and barrels of powder, lies in wait with fell intent to blow up the Three Estates...

Very many of our readers have possibly never heard of a singular duty which the Lord Great Chamberlain is bound to perform on the opening day of each Session. It is enacted by an order inscribed upon the Journals of the House of Lords that a few hours before Parliament meets, this high functionary shall, either himself or by his deputy, carefully search the vaults under the House and see that no Guy Fawkes with his dark lantern and barrels of powder, lies in wait with fell intent to blow up the Three Estates...

Very many of our readers have possibly never heard of a singular duty which the Lord Great Chamberlain is bound to perform on the opening day of each Session. It is enacted by an order inscribed upon the Journals of the House of Lords that a few hours before Parliament meets, this high functionary shall, either himself or by his deputy, carefully search the vaults under the House and see that no Guy Fawkes with his dark lantern and barrels of powder, lies in wait with fell intent to blow up the Three Estates...

Very many of our readers have possibly never heard of a singular duty which the Lord Great Chamberlain is bound to perform on the opening day of each Session. It is enacted by an order inscribed upon the Journals of the House of Lords that a few hours before Parliament meets, this high functionary shall, either himself or by his deputy, carefully search the vaults under the House and see that no Guy Fawkes with his dark lantern and barrels of powder, lies in wait with fell intent to blow up the Three Estates...

Very many of our readers have possibly never heard of a singular duty which the Lord Great Chamberlain is bound to perform on the opening day of each Session. It is enacted by an order inscribed upon the Journals of the House of Lords that a few hours before Parliament meets, this high functionary shall, either himself or by his deputy, carefully search the vaults under the House and see that no Guy Fawkes with his dark lantern and barrels of powder, lies in wait with fell intent to blow up the Three Estates...

Very many of our readers have possibly never heard of a singular duty which the Lord Great Chamberlain is bound to perform on the opening day of each Session. It is enacted by an order inscribed upon the Journals of the House of Lords that a few hours before Parliament meets, this high functionary shall, either himself or by his deputy, carefully search the vaults under the House and see that no Guy Fawkes with his dark lantern and barrels of powder, lies in wait with fell intent to blow up the Three Estates...

Very many of our readers have possibly never heard of a singular duty which the Lord Great Chamberlain is bound to perform on the opening day of each Session. It is enacted by an order inscribed upon the Journals of the House of Lords that a few hours before Parliament meets, this high functionary shall, either himself or by his deputy, carefully search the vaults under the House and see that no Guy Fawkes with his dark lantern and barrels of powder, lies in wait with fell intent to blow up the Three Estates...

Advertisement for TRAILFINDERS, offering low cost flights worldwide and up to 60% discount on hotels and car rental.

Advertisement for Valentine's Day, featuring a search for Guy Fawkes and a search for Guy Fawkes.

Advertisement for KIDNEY, featuring a search for Guy Fawkes and a search for Guy Fawkes.

Advertisement for ON THIS DAY, featuring a search for Guy Fawkes and a search for Guy Fawkes.

NEWS

Public pay freeze hits nurses

The Government angered public-sector workers by restricting nurses to a national pay award of 2 per cent and cutting back awards to a million others. Britain's 480,000 nurses were told they would have to rely on local bargaining to secure more than 2 per cent. The Government added to their anger by declining to follow last year's practice of setting a target that nurses should be able to win from hospitals. Pages 1, 8

Party leaders go to the country

The leaders of the main parties have jointly written to The Times to express support for the protection of the countryside. John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown, echo the language of a similar letter on May 8, 1929, signed by Stanley Baldwin, Ramsay MacDonald and Lloyd George. Pages 1, 17

Hindley plea

Myra Hindley, the Moors Murderer, should be considered for transfer to an open prison after serving 30 years in a succession of high and medium security jails, says the Parole Board. Page 1

Dearer prescriptions

Prescription charges are to rise by 25p to £5.50p from April, an increase of nearly 5 per cent, the Government announced. Page 1

Benefits storm

A political storm erupted over Government plans to cut social security running costs by 25 per cent, with predictions that up to 20,000 jobs would go. Page 2

Actress's triumph

Josie Lawrence, the comedian who began her career in working-men's clubs, has won an award for her Kate in The Taming of the Shrew. Page 3

\$1,000,000 question

Joan Collins took a verbal mauling in the witness stand in a \$4 million breach of contract case with her former publisher. Earlier, she confessed that she had spent the \$1.2 million advance that is at the root of the dispute. Page 3

Canoe man freed

The managing director of an activities centre, jailed for the manslaughter of the four young victims of the Lyme Bay canoeing disaster, is to be freed. Page 5

Tory hopeful takes to the air

Young Tory bloods will stop at nothing to win the chance of a Commons seat. But few spend £1,000 to hire a helicopter to beat the driving snow and appear before two selection meetings during the same evening. John Bercow, special adviser to Virginia Bottomley, did that when he was invited to meetings at Surrey Heath, and Buckingham. Page 1

Media group

Two peers from opposite sides of the political spectrum announced a merger that will create one of Britain's most powerful media conglomerates. Page 6

Euro award

A republican activist, who was jailed for eight years for his part in helping to falsely imprison an RUC informer, was awarded £15,000 costs by European Union human rights judges. Page 9

Calmer waters

The Pope's Latin American tour is helping to erase ugly memories of his first visit to the region in 1983, when Central America was torn by civil wars. Page 10

Nuclear sale

Tensions between China and the United States escalated with revelations that Peking has sold nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan. Page 11

Kohl under attack

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, was attacked in parliament after the announcement that the number of unemployed was well over the important four million mark. Page 12

Pig issue

Republican hopeful Pat Buchanan is riding high on the hog in Iowa. He rarely misses the opportunity to play to a local audience, and pigs are a big issue in the Midwest. Page 13



The Prince of Wales being shown around Dubrovnik to see how war damage in the Croatian resort is being repaired. Page 12

Shares probe

The London Stock Exchange is examining trades in shares of United News & Media and MAI ahead of the merger announcement which came the day after United shares rose 29p to 624p. Page 21

Céranne payout

The electronics company, whose largest single shareholder is chairman Alan Sugar, has increased the dividend despite incurring a £5.4 million first half loss. Page 21

Lloyd's debt cap

Names are expected to have their debt capped at £100,000. Page 21

Markets

The FT-SE 100 fell 7.1 to 3,708.4. The pound fell 22 cents to \$1.5363 and .48 pence to DM2.2680, with the index closing at 84.3. Page 24

Crickets

Dominic Cork, England's principal strike bowler, left the field with a damaged knee during a World Cup practice match in Lahore and joined Robin Smith on the injury list. Page 40

Football

Ilie Dumitrescu, of Romania, and Marc Hottiger, of Switzerland, have been refused renewal of their work permits after switching clubs in England. Page 40

Rugby union

Mike Catt, the England full back, has been left out of the Bath side to play Wakefield in the Pilkington Cup. He will play for the second team. Page 40

Snooker

Andy Hicks, attempting to become the first wild-card entrant to win the Benson and Hedges Masters, reached the semi-finals. Page 36

After the scream

David Storey's evocative play about a rugby-league team, The Changing Room, has been superbly revived in the West End; while in Liverpool a drama explores Tommy Cooper's tragicomic world. Page 29

Céranne of the day

Richard Cork explains the mastery of Still Life with Apples, painted in 1893-94. Page 29

Aids' ballet

The Royal Ballet has premiered Dances with Death, a new ballet on the subject of the Aids virus. Page 30

Pop on Friday

David Sinclair on new albums from The Bluebelles and the group JT, a trio of Michael Jackson's nephews; Caitlin Moran on Audiotrax; reviews of Nick Heyward and Cleo Laine. Page 31

Selling children

Hundreds of Ukrainian babies may have been stolen and sent abroad to be sold for adoption. Page 14

Valerie Grove

Interviews David Storey — once a man of brawn and brain, not adverse to biffing theatre critics — whose play, The Changing Room, has been revived at the Duke of York's. Page 15

Tasty subject

Where once organic food was considered cranky, it is now smart to eat food unimpaired by the hand of science. Page 15

Political options

Education will be a central issue in the next general election but how will this affect independent schools? Page 33

Testing the difference

Are tests for primary schools a good idea? Two opinions. Page 35

The behaviour of the Zagreb Government

is a scandal: despite all of its promises it is tolerating and protecting the Croatian gangs in the city who threatened the life of Hans Koenig, the European Union representative. The voters felt that they had the unspoken support of President Tudman. The authoritarian leader allows himself to be hailed as an angel of peace in Dayton but in reality he has been sabotaging the stabilisation process. — General Arturiger, Bonn



IN THE TIMES
PASSION
José Carreras on songs he swears by, and 50 copies of his Passion CD to be won
ROMANCE
Valentine's gifts: the good, the bad and the cuddly. Plus: Paris, the lovers' guide

Preview: Chris Evans hosts an early evening show of music and guests. T.F.I. Friday (Channel 4 6pm). Review: Matthew Bond enjoys half an hour in the company of Derek Hatton. Page 39

Three countrymen
The English character may be suburban but its roots are rural. Those roots require nurturing, not just casual neglect and the occasional agreement to agree. Page 17

The Mostar test
If Mostar and Sarajevo become Balkan Berlins, permanently divided, all bets are off for lasting peace in Bosnia. Page 17

A cue missed
Snooker is a mind game and a lost cue, or one cruelly snapped, can sap morale in a way that those of us who do not play snooker will never understand. Or perhaps we understand only too well: and leave the game firmly alone. Page 17

BERNARD LEVIN
I don't care much about Martin Churchill, but I follow it not because of the depressing details, nor because I am looking forward to Scott's bag of coffee-applis, but because it tells me as clearly as Big Ben that the Scott report is yet another nail in the coffin of this putrid Government. Page 18

MAGNUS LINKLATER
Professor Gianni Angelini, an Italian who is now a top heart surgeon in this country, says that in his experience, Britain is the most open society in Europe. Page 16

PHILIP HOWARD
The language prescriptions find themselves growing older in a new world, surrounded by new ideas, new words, new grammar, new fashions, and younger rivals even for the low trade of old-fogey punditry. Page 16

OBITUARY
The Most Rev Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool; Ronald Fickens, radio broadcaster; Lieutenant Colonel Brian Madden. Page 19

LETTERS
Party leaders unite to protect rural heritage; heredity and the Lord; Germany's views on nation-state; beating the snow. Page 16

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,086

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS
1 Pull back — space is place reserved for officers (8).
9 A spiel about endless money could get one hooked (8).
10 Tree with sap acceptable to people? Just the opposite (4).
11 Courted lover runs away from writer (2-10).
13 As joke, clear basket (6).
14 Understand place to eat is within one's reach (8).
15 Judge in Israel had robe altered (7).
16 State team captain initially an American (7).
20 Falls, having a problem seeing (8).
22 Indian poet volunteers to shed blood (6).
23 How one might get me into musical work? (12).
25 Type of rain-drop? Sort of (4).
26 Pessimistic image on film (9).
27 Terrified of daughter going to university (8).
DOWN
2 Hand this round? (8).
3 Unhappy party with son getting drunk in the early hours (12).
4 Rate poet badly for work such as Princess Ida (8).
5 Manipulation required to provide service on time (7).
6 Dismiss spy after uprising (3-3).
7 Very small penalty (4).
8 Get to know about article made of skin (8).
12 Art committee can make a fresh start here? (7-5).
15 Degraded rebel sunk in depression (8).
17 Mix up in executing star shape (8).
18 Wearing down? An undergarment's best pulled up! (8).
19 Puzzled out, in a particular way (7).
21 Where in Ireland to get a new haircut? (6).
24 Star appearing in representative game (4).

TOWER OF BABEL crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-14.

Weather forecast table for various regions including Greater London, Kent, Devon & Cornwall, etc.

AA Roadwatch table showing traffic conditions for routes like London to Heath, London to Oxford, etc.

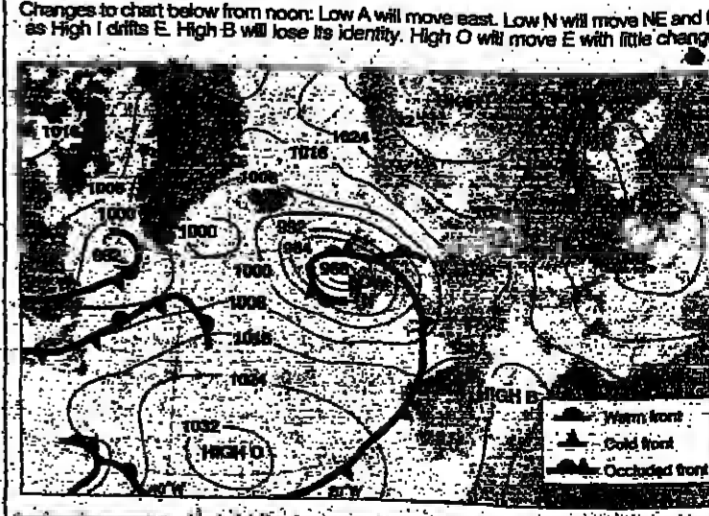
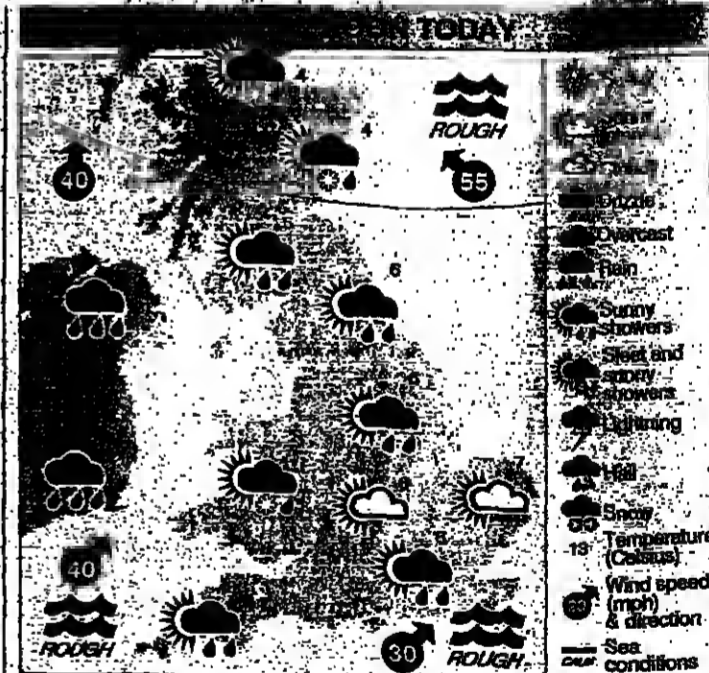
Highest & Lowest table showing temperature extremes for various locations.

FLIGHT SAVERS £99 LONDON TO COPENHAGEN, HAMBURG, MILAN, NICE OR ZURICH. Includes Air UK logo and contact information.

General: Much of England and Wales will have a wet and windy start to the day. Over northern England any snow across the hills will soon turn to rain, with a thaw setting in generally. Brighter weather will spread from the west, although some heavy, blustery showers are likely mainly in western and southern areas.

AROUND THE COUNTRY table with columns for Sun, Rain, Fog, Max, Min for various cities like Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

TOURIST table showing flight times and prices for destinations like Alicante, Athens, Barcelona, etc.



TOURIST table with columns for destination, AM, HT, PM, HT, and price. Includes a section for 'Last Quarter February 1996' with moon phases.



BOOKS



Libby Purves and the weird side of the weather  
Page 13  
PLUS: Andrew Roberts on the NCR jury, page 12

SHOPPING



Romance ratings for Valentine presents  
Page 7  
PLUS: shopping in style in Paris, page 8

OUTDOORS



The quest to create 1,000 village greens  
Page 15  
PLUS: a sailor and his engine, page 15

TRAVEL



Paris: dreamy days in the city of love  
Pages 18, 19  
PLUS: a honeymoon revived, page 17

# WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 1996

## HOW TO HIT A PUBLISHER FOR MILLIONS



By Quentin Letts

**F**our million bucks for two books? exclaimed an elderly man in a corridor outside the Manhattan court where Joan Collins this week entered a legal battle with her publisher. The old New Yorker whistled in wonder: "Who does she think she is? Shakespeare?"

The case of Random House (UK) & Random House Inc v. Gemini Star Productions Ltd & Joan Collins has blown the bonnet off the publishing world. Book commissioning and editing, once seen as cardigan-and-cocoa occupations, have been unveiled as

complex, brutal, zappy affairs. Thanks to Joan Collins we have seen the big-dog decisions modern publishers take, the highly complex discussions which must take place before a word of a novel is written. Miss Collins, less acclaimed as a writer than her sister Jackie, was offered \$4 million (about £2.6 million) not because she could turn a pretty sub-club but because she is a movie star. People know her. Aged 62, she still exudes that ineffable fragrance of *eau de grandeur*, perfected over decades in showbusiness. Her arrival on Tuesday morning at the drab courthouse just

south of Manhattan's Chinatown was an event in itself. When she alighted from her car she flashed her teeth and let her earrings glint under the flashbulbs of the paparazzi. Summoning her thespian powers she declared that Random House had been — a swallow for dramatic effect — had been, well, "cruel". She claimed to be speaking up "for many other authors" and voiced her confident expectation of victory. It was superstar stuff but little else would do. Random House, one of the great powers of publishing, is peeved to a high degree. It is dissatisfied with the manuscript Miss Collins delivered for one of the books, *A Ruling Passion*, she agreed to write for \$4 million, and it wants the return of \$1.2 million it paid as an advance. The court heard the Collins prose described as "very primitive, dated, dull, clichéd". She is countering for the balance of the \$4 million, arguing that it is no matter whether the work was dreadful or not. What matters is that it was a "complete" manuscript, as demanded in her contract. Despite the vast sums she was receiving,

Miss Collins expected detailed attention from her editors. Her lawyer, Kenneth Burrows, said that she was accustomed to intensive "face-to-face, line-by-line, page-by-page" editorial help. It was not given. This sort of assistance is the norm for celebrity authors. Lord Archer takes close advice from experienced book editors when composing his commercial masterpieces. The routine is exhausting. Editors suggest alterations, help the author to improve descriptive passages, make dialogue more convincing.

Continued on page 3, col 1

Choose your weapon.



Don't forget Valentine's Day is next Wednesday, February 14th.

Call Free 0500 434343



CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? The Times critics select the best entertainment

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Wagner is no longer as central to the operatic repertoire in London as once he was...

SAMSON ET DALILA Another more succinct glance at erotic obsession, though Saint-Saëns' wrong-foot us for the first 20 minutes...

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

BIRMINGHAM PREMIERE Nothing less than an "introduction to the world" is attempted in a new piece by Sally Beamish...

PIANISTS' WORK Plenty of twinkling fingers at the keyboard this week. Jack Gibbons gives only the second performance in history of Alkan's stupendously difficult 12 Etudes...



Jack Gibbons plays Alkan at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

Hall, Thur 15, 7pm. András Schiff opens his Bartok and Haydn series at the Wigmore Hall (Mon 12, Wed 14, next Sat 17, 7.30pm)...

programme. Lucky the city that can boast such an array of pianistic riches in the same week...

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242); Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141); Barbican, Silk St, London EC2 (0171-638 8891).

ROCK

David Sinclair

ETERNAL Comfortably lodged in the Top 30 with their second album, Power of a Woman, and nominated for Best British Dance Act in next week's Brit Awards...

BABYLON ZOO A musical amalgamation of David Bowie and Suede adapted for the post-grunge era, Spaceman has become one of the fastest-selling British singles ever...

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

STANLEY Stanley Spencer's first wife sacrificed herself totally for him, his second grabbed what she could get from an "oik" she openly despised...

Cottesloe, National, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 2252). Evenings: Mon 12 to Thur 15, 7.30pm; matinee: Tues 13, 2.30pm.

VALLEY SONG The joy of Athol Fugard's first post-apartheid play is that the author himself is onstage, a tiny, bearded figure playing both a writer seeking sanctuary from the urban hubbub and an old farmer afraid of eviction...

Royal Court, Sloane Square, London SW1 (0171-730 1745). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.30pm; matinees: Thur 15, 3pm, Sat 17, 3.30pm.



José Cura brings grand-operatic singing to Covent Garden in Saint-Saëns's Samson et Dalila (see Opera)

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

BRIDGET RILEY A double helping of recent work by one of our most rigorous and enervating painters. At Waddington Galleries large painings fill the space with a remarkable sense of energy...

Waddington Galleries, Cork Street, London W1 (0171-437 8011) and Karsten Schubert, 41-42 Foley Street, London W1 (0171-631 0031), until March 2.

Arriving at the Tate Gallery after his triumphant season at the Grand Palais in Paris, the Master of Aix looks magnificent. His early paintings are turbulent, erratic and often violent...



Tête à Tête: self-portrait of the artist Cézanne, circa 1866

charged with enormous vitality, and after 1880 Cézanne learns how to channel all that fervent emotion into an art of overwhelming grandeur...

calculated about his later work. The firmness with which he structures his figures, landscapes and still lifes is seasoned with sensual power...

Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000), until April 28 (for tickets ring First Call on 0990 661 010).

DANCE

John Percival

SCOTTISH DANCE THEATRE Neville Campbell, who formerly ran the Phoenix Dance Company, might seem an appropriate director for this new group arising from the ashes of the Dundee Rep Dance Company...

St Brides Centre, Edinburgh (0131-246 1405), Thur 15 to Sat 17, 7.30pm; Dundee Rep Theatre (01382 223530), Feb 19-20; Dovecot Arts

Centre, Stockton-on-Tees (01642 611625) Mar 1; The Place Theatre, London (0171-387 0031), Mar 8, 9. Also Liverpool, Bury, Inverness, Kircaldy, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Stirling, Cumbernauld and Paisley (details 01382 229500).

CINDERELLA Michael Corder has created a new Cinderella to Prokofiev's music for English National Ballet. David Walker is the designer...

The Mayflower, Southampton (01703 71811), Wed 14 to Sat 17, 7.30pm; matinees: Thur 15, Sat 17, 2.30pm; Palace Theatre, Manchester (0161-242 2503), Feb 19 to 24; Bristol Hippodrome (0117 929 9444), Feb 26 to Mar 2; London Coliseum (0171-632 8300), Mar 25 to 27.

A LITTLE PRINCESS (U): A gorgeous family film that even improves on The Secret Garden...

WITHNAIL & I (15): Bruce Robinson's cult comedy about two would-be actors at the end of the 1960s, enduring a miserable break in the Lake District...

JOHN ABERCROMBIE/PEE WEE ELLIS John Abercrombie's name graces a shelf-full of albums on the ECM label. His consistency and his ability to slip into just about any genre from pop to fusion has almost counted against him...

John Russell Taylor

THE SILVER OF SAN LORENZO Of all materials, silver has tended to be most inextricably harnessed to the past, and traditional ideas of how it should be used in design...

who also played on Van Morrison's recently-released R & B disc, How Long Has This Been Going On? The Rhythmic Chapel Market, London N1 (0171-733 5859), Abercrombie: Mon 12 to Wed 14; Ellis: Fri 16 to Sun 18.

and usable. Where else but in Italy? Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (0171-938 8441), Mon 12, noon-5.50pm; Tues-Sun, 10am-5.50pm, until April 30. (E)

WHITEFRIARS GLASS The glass factory of James Powell & Sons first opened in 1834. During the first century of its existence it was associated primarily with the nascent Arts and Crafts movement...

Clive Davis

MARI WILSON In those far-off, easy-living days of the early 1980s, Mari Wilson's beehive hair-do and her tribute to Julie London on Cry Me a River earned her cult status in the clubs of London...

JOHN ABERCROMBIE/PEE WEE ELLIS John Abercrombie's name graces a shelf-full of albums on the ECM label. His consistency and his ability to slip into just about any genre from pop to fusion has almost counted against him...



Rhythmic sounds: the multi-talented John Abercrombie

1993 Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Koca play the lead roles in Clasp Net's version of Puccini's Andromache, updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son...

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London. House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL. Mark Aron and Ben Ansell in a revival of their hit comedy...

NEW RELEASES. CLOCKERS (18). Spike Lee's heavy-handed version of Richard Price's novel...

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol \*) on release across the country.

THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD (PG). A boy Indian figure comes alive...

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18). Nicolas Cage drives himself to death, striking...



Athol Fugard, Esmeralda Bini at the Royal Court



A Little Princess: make-believe for Liesel Mathews

# INSIDE STORY

**ONE CELEBRITY** author demanded that any limousines provided to her during her promotional tour of Britain must be a certain shade of blue to match her eyes. There must also be three suits at the Ritz: one for her, one for her manager and one for her hairdresser. Different demands arrived by the day and eventually her London publisher despaired of her antics and scrapped the tour, to cheers from his office colleagues.

□ A New York agent insisted that his client be greeted with champagne at every new location. Unless sufficiently chilled there would be "trouble".

□ Authors stipulate that the publisher must provide a glitzy launch party — for instance, in New York's skyscraper Rainbow Room restaurant with its magnificent views.

□ "Only five-star hotels will be tolerated on tour," ran one contract. "The public would think anything else improper." Another touring author insisted: "My manager and personal assistant will need their own limousines, to be available 24 hours a day."

□ Celebrity authors can stipulate the right to refuse to go on certain chat shows, perhaps because they are too tough or because a show's host has in the past said bad things about the author.

**ALAN NEVINS**, a former assistant to "Swiftly" Lazar (Joan Collins's late, legendary agent), counsels his Hollywood clients against silly demands. "Some celebrity authors will expect, say, a party for their book at the American Booksellers' Association," he says. "Launch parties are effectively for the author and friends. They do not tend to help the book financially."

## 'Most arguments are about hotels, stretch limousines and the number of staff'

Continued from page 1

and delete clichés, excessive adjectives and dull characters. Joni Evans, the perma-tanned Random House editor who gave evidence against Joan Collins this week, said she — Evans — and a line editor had gone through "16 drafts" of a book with Lord Archer at his house in the Bahamas. Once that was done, she had jetted off to London to work with Michael Caine.

**T**his is publishing in the mould of inter-national, trouble-shooting. We have come a long way from the domain of a figure of popular imagination who reaches into his in-tray in Bloomsbury and discovers a brilliant manuscript which needs little more than a few typographical tweaks before it can be sent to the printer.

The turbines of modern publishing turn in places such as the midtown Manhattan skyscraper offices of the William Morris agency, a mighty concern which represents politicians, sportsmen, tycoons and, lest one forgets, authors. The décor as you enter the impressive atrium is space-age and muted corridors stretch in all directions. By the outer walls, in high-tech box offices, sit the executive agents, talking urgently, breathily, into state-of-the-art telephones. In the inner core of this giant monument to modern publishing, meanwhile, sit the assistants, runners and clerks, handsome youths with designer haircuts and a sharp view of the world.

Dan Strone, a William Morris agent who specialises in marrying celebrity clients to



Random House paid Marion Brando \$5 million for his memoirs

hungry publishers, surveyed global publishing this week from his high office window and said: "A person's celebrity status creates an expectation of high sales, which in turn creates an expectation of big advances. Some people in publishing just do not know how to handle stars. I package a book before taking it to the publisher. Once you have a ghost writer or collaborator and you know what the celebrity is prepared to talk about, there are few problems."

Strone concedes that prima donna behaviour can be a problem, but that comes with the territory. "You have to treat these people like stars. You have to expect that they will want to travel first class, in limousines. Most arguments are about hotels, stretch limousines and the number of staff people want to take when travelling. If you try to nickel-and-dime people, they are not going to be co-operative."

When Amy Tan's publishers, HarperCollins, wanted their much-loved star author to come to Britain to promote her *The Hundred Secret Senses*, she was worried about leaving her 20-month-old dog, Babba. The publishers promised to provide daily doggie fixes with animals borrowed from friends so Tan was never lonely. She came.

Stan Soocher, the editor-in-chief of *Entertainment Law & Finance*, a monthly New York newsletter, said: "Publishing is going the way of the rock 'n' roll business. Just as one rock star likes to demand that the

M&Ms in his dressing room are separated into different colours, celebrity authors have started to behave in a way many people might consider outrageous. As book publishing has become a mega-business, more companies are accepting these demands. They are recognising the star qualities of authors.

"Celebrity book deals are a high risk for publishers," Soocher said. "When the hit comes, it can be big, but many times they simply do not pay off and you see some celebrity books which are quickly offered at cut price in bookshops." Random House paid Marion Brando \$5 million for his memoirs, *Songs My Mother Taught Me*, but they were a critical and commercial disappointment, not helped by the slim amount of promotional activity the reclusive Brando agreed to do.

Hilary Rubinstein, a veteran London literary agent, says there have been some "gross and preposterous advances" paid to certain stars in recent years. He feels that Random

### CHOICE WORDS

Was this the man she loved? The man two short months ago that she had promised to love and honour till death parted them? Alina looked puffy, dejected, strung-out. His yellow hair was beginning to be laced with grey now and there were tired lines running from his nose to his mouth.

"What have you been doing, Alina? Tell me the truth, please, because I know."

"Know what, cherie? His face was a picture of boyish innocence. "What do you think you know, my little cabbage?"

"Don't call me your little cabbage," she said sweetly. "I'm nobody's cabbage. Not yours, not anyone's."

"What is it?" he asked. "This isn't like you. What's wrong, Venetia?"

"You're gay, aren't you, Alina?" she asked calmly. "You're still gay, after all these years." He stared at her, his eyes so blue the bers, dazed, then he drained his glass of vodka and went to pour another. "Who told you?" he answered huskily.

They couldn't believe it when they saw the rushes... Venetia's young bronzed body filled the screen, writhing, moaning and screaming in paroxysms of pleasure which Fabio could tell with an unaccustomed flash of jealousy, were not faked... both men knew they had a goldmine on their hands.



Supermodel Naomi Campbell with "her" novel, and (left) an extract from the Joan Collins manuscript

And Michael Heseltine's political books were composed with the sort of help a minister becomes used to, although, as a dyslexic, the Deputy Prime Minister has a better excuse than many authors.

**I**t is not only celebrity authors who take close editing. Such acclaimed "masters" of the pen as Clive Cussler and Jack Higgins receive scrutiny at the editing stage. What they may lack in technical perfection they balance with an intuitive sense of what readers want. Few authors, in truth, present really "clean" copy.

Richard Cohen, one of London's most respected publishers, used to edit Alistair MacLean. The thriller writer was literate but languid. "With one of his novels I read the manuscript and told him that he had too many heroines," recalls Cohen. "He replied: 'Och well, Richard, just kill one of them off.'" The next time they met, MacLean told

Cohen: "You killed off the wrong one, Richard — but nae matter."

Sources at the Manhattan offices of Random House, domain of the wizard Harold Evans, suggest that patience with celebrity authors may have been exhausted, but Evans has only to think of the success he had with General Colin Powell's memoirs last year to know that his company can scarce afford to give up on them. What the Collins case does illustrate, perhaps, is the growing determination of publishers to be more assiduous about retrieving advances they feel have not been earned. This is confirmed by Stuart Proffitt, the publisher of trade publishing at HarperCollins. "It is part of the general tightening-up in the book business," he said.

Proffitt believes there is no way that readers can be fooled by "books that have been cooked up. Artificially manufactured books generally have a shelf life of about three and a

half minutes," said Proffitt, who has just finished three months working on the next Lord Archer novel.

Is publishing really so much worse nowadays? Hilary Rubinstein worked on the publication of Muhammad Ali's autobiography. He recalls the book's launch party at which the champion boxer was asked by a reporter: "Did you write the book yourself?" Ali looked to the ghost writer at his side, pointed at the man, and said: "No. He wrote the thing. But I told him WHAT to write."

Joseph Conrad derived much benefit from the editorial efforts of Ford Maddox Ford. And ghost-writing was taken to literal levels by Thomas Hardy. After Hardy's death in 1928 his widow produced a biography of her husband. It was a good 25 years before people realised that the book — not a critical volume, let us say — had been written by Hardy himself.

Books, pages 12-13

## John Selwyn Gummer joins a small, lunchtime congregation in London

### Strength in the unity of prayer

**THE CHURCH** of St Mary-le-Strand in London sits in the middle of the road where the one-way system forces the traffic to choose between crossing Waterloo Bridge or continuing down to Trafalgar Square. When St Thomas a Becket was its rector, it stood on the sandy edge of the Thames but that church was demolished in 1549 to make way for the palace of the Lord Protector, the Duke of Somerset.

It was not until 1724 that the parish had its own church again when James Gibb completed his first important work in the Italian Baroque style, which he had learnt when studying under Carlo Fontana, the Vatican architect. There is something very un-English about this baroque box. St Mary's. So much so that the royal arms of George I above the apse seem oddly out of place in this exuberantly foreign setting.

We are not a large congregation for the lunchtime service, perhaps a dozen spread about the church. Yet we are given the full Sung Eucharist with four hymns — no half-measures here. Indeed that sums up the church. The ornate ceiling may have been the work of English craftsmen but it is certainly not recent. Its Italianate plasterwork grabs the attention up above the plain walls and high windows which are surprisingly effective in keeping the noise of the traffic out. Six candles flank the tabernacle, and there are two more on the altar, while votive lights twinkle before the fittingly ornate statue of the Virgin patron of the church.

The rector finishes tolling the bell and walks down to put on his chasuble in the tiny vestry beside the altar. The first

hymn is announced, and we are led impressively by two ladies in the front helped by the strongly rhythmic playing of the electric organ. We join in with a will and when the celebrant begins the Kyrie everyone is ready to respond and the service gets under way with a swing. There are so few of us, so dispersed, and yet so congregational a feeling. Anglican services at lunchtime are normally an effective illustration of the biblical concept of the faithful remnant; this is altogether more encouraging. We are even able to sing *Fight the Good Fight* without seeming ridiculous.

The rector has a good strong voice and sings the service effectively. We use *rite B* from the Church of England's *Alternative Service Book* and the continuing appeal of the traditional language contributes to that feeling of solidarity. It is not only those present who are not presuming to come to the Lord's Table — we are joined in that by the whole company of so many generations past. Yet within this traditional form we are left in no doubt about the relevance of our faith to the world of today. As befits the Bishop of London's chaplain to the homeless, Father Derek White prays with clarity and directness for the needs of those outside. His language is simple and immensely effective.

As we pray for those caught up in war and disaster, for the addicts and the alcoholics, for the sick and the departed, he creates a sense of real concern for each as he remembers them. It is the anniversary of the Queen's accession and in a sentence he communicates her sense of duty to the nation and her very present need for our prayers. This is no ritual listing, but real intercession.

Indeed, here is a praying congregation. During the notice of the rector reminds us of the coming of Lent. The parish has a full programme of services for every day, save Mondays. It has produced a special Lenten book with a reading, meditation and something specific to do on every day of the penitential season. Clearly there is an expectation that we will want to make a good Lent. There is only a single rail-full of communicants in a church which could hold three hundred, but the sense of a worshipping community impresses itself forcibly upon the visitor. The nearest person may be three or four pews away, but there is no feeling of isolation. Instead of being a lonely upholder of an ancient faith, you know you are part of the blessed company of faithful people.

*St-Mary-le-Strand, Strand, London WC2R 2LS. Tel: 0171-836 3205. Lunchtime services are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1pm.*

- ★ **A five star guide** ★
- ARCHITECTURE:** A really good first try from the man who built Radcliffe Camera in Oxford, and the Cambridge Senate House. ★★★★★
  - MUSIC:** Two stars well earned. ★★
  - LITURGY:** Good, average Anglican High Church. ★★
  - SPIRITUAL HIGH:** You can get the strength of a praying congregation. ★★★★★
  - AFTER-SERVICE CARE:** What! In the middle of the traffic in the Strand!!!

WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE WHEN YOU CAN AFFORD TO GO TO MAPLES?

OFFER AVAILABLE IN ALL DEPARTMENTS - OPEN SUNDAY - LIMITED PERIOD ONLY

**MAPLES**

CALL 011 430 1234

NEW CAR PERSONS ONLY - OPEN 10.30 - 6.00

25% OFF

NO DEPOSIT INTEREST FREE CREDIT PLUS

# GARDENING

## GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

**Q** I have a large yew hedge. Can you tell me if cuttings can be used in a medicinal way and collecting them? — Ms E. Wallis, Crossways, Dorset.

**A** Yew clippings can be used in cancer research and there are several companies that collect them. There is even a small payment per kilogram for the clippings. Companies are interested in relatively small amounts, even a couple of large bin-liners full.

There are certain things you need to know before collection. For instance, clippings must be kept cool. Small amounts can be spread out in a shady place but large heaps will heat up like compost, so some firms supply special sacks, complete with a fan to push air into the centre of the sack. Collection should follow quickly after cutting.

Some firms offer different prices according to the quality of the clippings, ranging from clean, feathery clippings to twiggy stuff. Most are not interested in anything of more than pencil thickness.

Large quantities can fetch 50p per kilogram. For collection, contact: Friendship Estates, Old House Farm, Stubbs Walden, Doncaster DN6 9BU (01302 700220); Philippe Warty, PO Box 118, Chichester, W Sussex, PO18 0EL (01243 545455); Yew Clippings Ltd, Milton Mill, West Milton, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3SN (01308 485693).

**Q** Our problem plant is *Yucca gloriosa*, Adam's needle, which blooms too late in the year, at Christmas. Can you suggest a way to cure this? — Mr J. Norman, Lincoln.

**A** With leaves as sharp as a yucca's around, who can blame Adam for wanting to stich together a loincloth? Yuccas are fabulous in bloom, but that 6ft white candle is always late. In a cold garden, it pays to plant it against a south wall to speed nature along, or to plant the smaller but earlier *Yucca filamentosa*.

**Q** Some years ago we look over a garden in which somebody had planted grape hyacinths.

The things are spreading like a plague, and thrive on weedkillers such as Roundup and Tumbleweed, and when they have spread into gravel paths, shrug off PathClear and even sodium chlorate. Any ideas? — Dr M.D. Begley, Frome, Somerset.

**A** A pretty blue, but insidious, aren't they? Muscari grow from a small white bulb, producing lots of bulblets every year as well as seedlings. They spread like mad, by fork and hoe and mouse and mole. Think hard before introducing them into an area of close gardening, however pretty they may look as an edging.

Growing them on a grassy bank solves the problem. Removing them from a border is difficult because, like celandines, their bulblets are so numerous that it is almost impossible to dig them up. Attempts at serious digging usually let some bulbs drop even lower into the soil, making them harder still to eradicate. Heavy shade stops them flowering but will not kill them except over many, many years. However, you might smother them into insignificance with a heavy herbaceous ground cover.

Where the bulbs are in empty soil, you might try removing and sterilising the soil. What a job! Where they are among the roots of shrubs, persevere with the Roundup (glyphosate) but be sure to brush the leaves first and to add washing-up liquid to the spray to make sure it does not run off the shiny leaves. There are many things which glyphosate takes several applications to kill, and bulbs are one of them. In gravel, sodium chlorate will work, even if the bulbs have sufficient energy reserves to produce several death throes.

Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9AT. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.



Stephen Anderton lightly prunes, as a start, a 12ft multistem yew that is crying out to be topiarised. To the left is a skeletal, badly pruned old apple tree that "will have to go"

## The thinking man's plot

The thing to do with a new garden is nothing. Just look and plan, says Stephen Anderton

**T**he best thing you can do for a new garden, and sometimes the hardest thing, is simply to look at it. Not to rush out and start doing things, but just to look, and think.

When I moved into my new house near Saffron Walden in Essex in December it snowed a little and then, without a breath of wind, froze for a week. All I could do was look.

Then the birds arrived. The children had hung peanuts in an old apple tree outside the kitchen window and the word got around that there was a free meal. Numbers were few at first, perhaps because the garden has been inhabited previously by a couple of rough-and-tumble dogs, but soon there was all the usual cast of garden birds, plus greenfinches and treecreepers. Below them, a posse of pheasants paraded the lawn, as if with arms behind their backs, and pretended not to be beating the fallen peanut skins.

But waiting gets you down. After the thaw, I started to spend half hours standing about in the garden, hatching

plots and plans. Mine is not a huge garden, but quite big enough. Most of the plot lies to the back of the house, on the east side, in a rectangle 80ft by 110ft. Beyond my boundary is a neighbour's field, and then a row of tall pines along the edge of a stream. If these were thinned now, a few would stand a chance of becoming grand old pines with broad leaves.

In my garden there is a good matrix of trees around open lawn, and on these might hang the future garden design. Two big, mature, flowering cherries flank the south side. They will be a powerful sight when in flower, and there is no point planning much else nearby until spring shows what colours they will be. Will they be white? Will they be bilious pink? (Of course they will.) Will the birds take all the buds every year and the trees never flower? If so, they will be greedy, shallow-rooted trees and worthwhile only in a small garden if they perform.

Dead ahead centre, against the bottom fence, is a 30ft horse chestnut, which I take to

be the ordinary white one. If it were the pink form, there would be a circular scar around the trunk, where the pink scion was grafted on to the plain stock. I would prefer it to be the white form or, better still, the late-flowering Indian horse chestnut, *Aesculus indica*, which has beautiful glossy leaves.

In time, the horse chestnut will make a good tree and a powerful focus for the bottom of the garden. But if you plant a large, greedy tree as a focus in a small garden, there is always the problem of how to handle the dry, rooty space

underneath, where nothing wants to grow. On the other hand, you can encourage horse chestnuts to hold their branches right down to ground level.

My tree is planted hard against the fence and, by the time it is a big tree, half of it will be hanging over my neighbour's land. It will be in his way. Perhaps it should go now. It is, after all, the most important place in the whole garden, and getting this right quickly would be most valuable. But oo, give it a year and see what the tree does for the garden in summer. Suddenly,

a nasty thought: if this is a conservation area I may not be allowed to take it down. I must check with the local authority planning department.

Anyway, have I not always railed against people who move into new houses and immediately start cutting down trees before they have had chance to see what purpose they serve? I must see it all in summer first.

**D**own the left flank of the garden, to the north, is my business park. Pride of place goes to the oh-so-necessary garden shed, a splendid Wendy house, rotary washing line, compost heap, another big cherry and three 30ft Leyland cypresses, which are quietly smothering a cedar (Himalayan cedar) and a Lawson cypress. If the Leylands do not get the cedar, the cherry will in another couple of years.

The Leylands really ought to go although, just now, they make a fine screen, and a splash of February greenery. But soon they will be 40ft high, and then 50ft and impossibly dominating. My neighbour to the north will be able to grow mushrooms in the gloom of his south-facing greenhouse. Tucked at the back the

Leylands is a surprise. A 15ft dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, sits by the fence, and at its foot a collection of handleless Edwardian garden rollers (they did so love to roll in those days). On close inspection, someone has "rolled" the redwood, and there is a sizeable patch of bark missing at ground level. The chances are that, as a result, it will never make a good, mature tree. Damn those rollers.

Out on the lawn, however, is a real promise: a 12ft multistem yew of loosely cottage-leaf configuration and crying out to be topiarised and pulled into the greater scheme of the new garden. I could reckon and do that now, but should I wait? No. That I shall begin. Then it can start thickening up this year.

In general, this year should be for planning: for getting to know the soil, to see how clay it is, to see where bulbs spring up, to clobber serious weeds, to see where the warm, sunny corners are, and the cold ones, to see if we will use the garden door in summer, and to see if the frost really does have me in its pocket.

Meanwhile, the pheasants think the Leyland cypresses are wonderful, and in the dustbowl under their canopy the birds wallow in ecstasy.

### WEEKEND TIPS

- Prune large-flowered clematis, tying back early-summer flowers, and cutting down to 2ft the late-summer ones.
- Dress the soil below established hedges with bonemeal, and apply residual granular herbicides if needed.
- Sow early salad crops, such as lettuce and radish, under glass, or even in a frame or cloche.
- Resist the temptation to cut back winter-damaged grey and Mediterranean plants until April.
- Complete the removal of dead stalks and leaves from herbaceous plants to compost heap.

## What's in a plant name?

SAY WHAT you like about the giving of cut flowers, the principle of the thing is safe enough. Even if the beloved cannot stand chinchery, roses, the flowers will at least die within a couple of weeks. Not so with plants for the garden. Giving these is a much trickier proposition, Stephen Anderton writes.

I would hesitate to ask someone to put up with my taste in plants for ever... "And how is *Yucca Vittorio Emmanuel II*? Doing well for you?" In fact, YVE II was probably given away at the first possible opportunity.

But it is these outrageous names which make the gift of plants stick in the mind of the present givers, and which keep them wondering how *Rosa Golden Wedding* and your marriage are doing.

So popular is *R. Golden Wedding* with prospective donors and, particularly, with the nursery trade that, when the first, 1938 *RGW* disappeared from cultivation, a new one was bred to replace it. There is now a stack of golden opportunities on the wedding list, including *Golden Celebration*, *Golden Anniversary*, *Golden Days*, *Golden Moments* and, of course, *Golden Years*.

*Find That Rose*, a booklet published by the British Rose Growers' Association, lists 26 *Golden Years*.

The rose is one of those plants, along with violas, irises, rhododendrons, fuchsias and dahlias, that has attracted a huge range of first-name titles. And there is no doubt that this helps to sell them to an eponymously market.

Last year a little booklet, *The Directory of First Name Plants*, was produced, so if you want to give your *Desiree* a *Desiree* for her birthday or as a Valentine present, you know where to look. And, if she doesn't like the plant, it will be that much harder for her to dispose of than a plant with just a Latin name. Binning one's namesake is like cutting one's toenails in public; difficult for semi-superstitious reasons.

Looking through this booklet of names, it is striking how many more of the names listed are female than male. The plants



'Golden Years', an anniversary rose

as 'Marian'. But 'Harrison' the hosta is altogether more appropriate. More chunky, "Hija, Harrison!" That sounds more like it.

Curiously, houseleeks (*Sempervivum*) have been a favourite target among plant breeders for receiving the names of mothers, wives and daughters. Curious, because it would be hard to think of a less dumpy, earthbound little plant. 'Ronnie', on the other hand, is a good name for a houseleek. Neat, cheerful and completely reliable.

Would we remember *Daphne* now, or the daughters named after her, if she, when being chased round Anfoch by a randy old Apollo, had had the lack of good fortune to be metamorphosed by Mother Earth into a houseleek? Or a pebble plant?

THE TROUBLE with buying a plant for its name alone is that a familiar handle does not guarantee its quality or character. Names carry such different messages to different generations. *Salvia Madonna* might mean the plant is black and spiky, or virginal white or celestial blue. Association is entirely in the mind of the beholder.

When it comes to it, most of us are capable of buying plants for others that we do not want for ourselves and without any help in the choosing from other people. Who can honestly say that at some time they have not bought a shirt with the wrong-sized collar, or an appealing plant for which one has neither real use nor space? On the other hand, how flattering it is when someone brings a plant which shows just how much they have considered your tastes and needs.

Perhaps, if I have a house-warming party, I might acquire four dozen 3ft-tall container-grown yew trees for my hedge?

● The Directory of First Name Plants costs £2 from D. and P. Harshorn, Nonesuch Cottage, Badby, Northants NN11 5AW. Find That Rose — a Guide to Who Grows What is compiled by the British Rose Growers' Association, c/o The Editor, 303 Mile End Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 5EA.

Read this FREE 26 page Brochure BEFORE buying a garden tractor or ride-on mower.

AND Countax's Which Tractor Buyers Guide

FREE 0500 279927

or return coupon to: Countax FREEPOST, Great Walsley, District CV44 7BR

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

POWERED BY **COUNTAX**

Quality Bulbs Established Supplier

**SNOWDROPS IN THE GREEN**

Single Snowdrops	£1 per 50	£4 per 100
Double Snowdrops	£1 per 25	£2 per 50
Anemone	£1 per 25	£2 per 50
Winter Daffodils	£1 per 25	£2 per 50
Hyacinth	£1 per 25	£2 per 50
Starburst	£1 per 25	£2 per 50

All bulbs freshly lifted for each order. Please allow 12 weeks for delivery.

Charles & Paul Online or A. Howard, A.S. Nursery, Dept. FT 27, Woodland Drive, 77, Church Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 2EL. Tel: 0494 463318

HEDGING & YOUNG TREES

Over 180 varieties, plus fruit, ground cover and shrubs.

Changeable prices from 01260 62290

Tel: 01260 612595 Fax: 01260 612591

Reddington Nurseries 77 Church Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 2EL

**ZAP A NEW GUARDIAN GARAGE DOOR**

No more rattling, shaking or fitting, now with a smart new empty rolls up and away, while you stay warm and dry in the comfort of your car.

Manufactured in maintenance free, powder coated aluminium in a range of colours and fully installed, they will prove to be a sound investment and an attractive addition to your home.

Guardian Garage Doors, Freepost HFS 118, Huddersfield, HD3 3LL.

OR FOR FREE NO OBLIGATION COLOUR BROCHURE

PHONE NOW: **GUARDIAN 01484 461010**

REMOTE CONTROL GARAGE DOORS

UP TO 99% - 7 DAYS A WEEK

THE WORLD'S LARGEST PLANT LIST

**Thompson & Morgan**

NOW BIGGER THAN EVER! WITH 16 EXTRA PAGES

IT REALLY IS ONE OF THE FINEST GARDEN CATALOGUES AROUND, WITH A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF FLOWER AND VEGETABLE VARIETIES, OVER 2,500 IN TOTAL WITH 100 NEW ITEMS FOR 1996. YOU'LL ALSO FIND SOME FASCINATING BULBS AND YOUNG PLANTS TO BRING YOUR GARDEN TO LIFE - ALL PACKED INTO 228 FULL COLOUR PAGES

AVAILABLE NOW FREE!

Tel: 01473 601090 Fax: 01473 680199

OR WRITE TO: THOMPSON & MORGAN LTD, REF 111C, POPLAR LANE, IPSWICH, IP8 3BU

**SNOWDROP IN THE GREEN OFFER**

Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) are a must for the early Spring Garden. If you would like a drift of these, it will soon be time to plant them - whilst the leaves are still green. Today, we are offering 100 bulbs for only £9.95, or 200 for £17.95 including postage direct from the nursery. They are ideal for planting under deciduous trees or shrubs and complement Winter aconites and cyclamens. Phone now on 0181 427 3968 or fill in the coupon.

For more details of Summer flowering bulbs why not ring or write for our free colour catalogue. 400 items to choose from and 300 superb photos. Bulbs from the experts, 14 x Chelsea Gold Medalists. The plants will be dispatched within 28 days. Full cultural instructions. Money back if not satisfied!

PHONE 0181 427 3968

Post to: Jacques Anand Snowdrops 135 The Nurseries, Clump Hill, Stammers Midsx. HA7 3JS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cross cheque payable to JAMAND LTD for £ \_\_\_\_\_ or debit my Access/Visa account by £ \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

# GARDENING

## Making a modern medieval garden

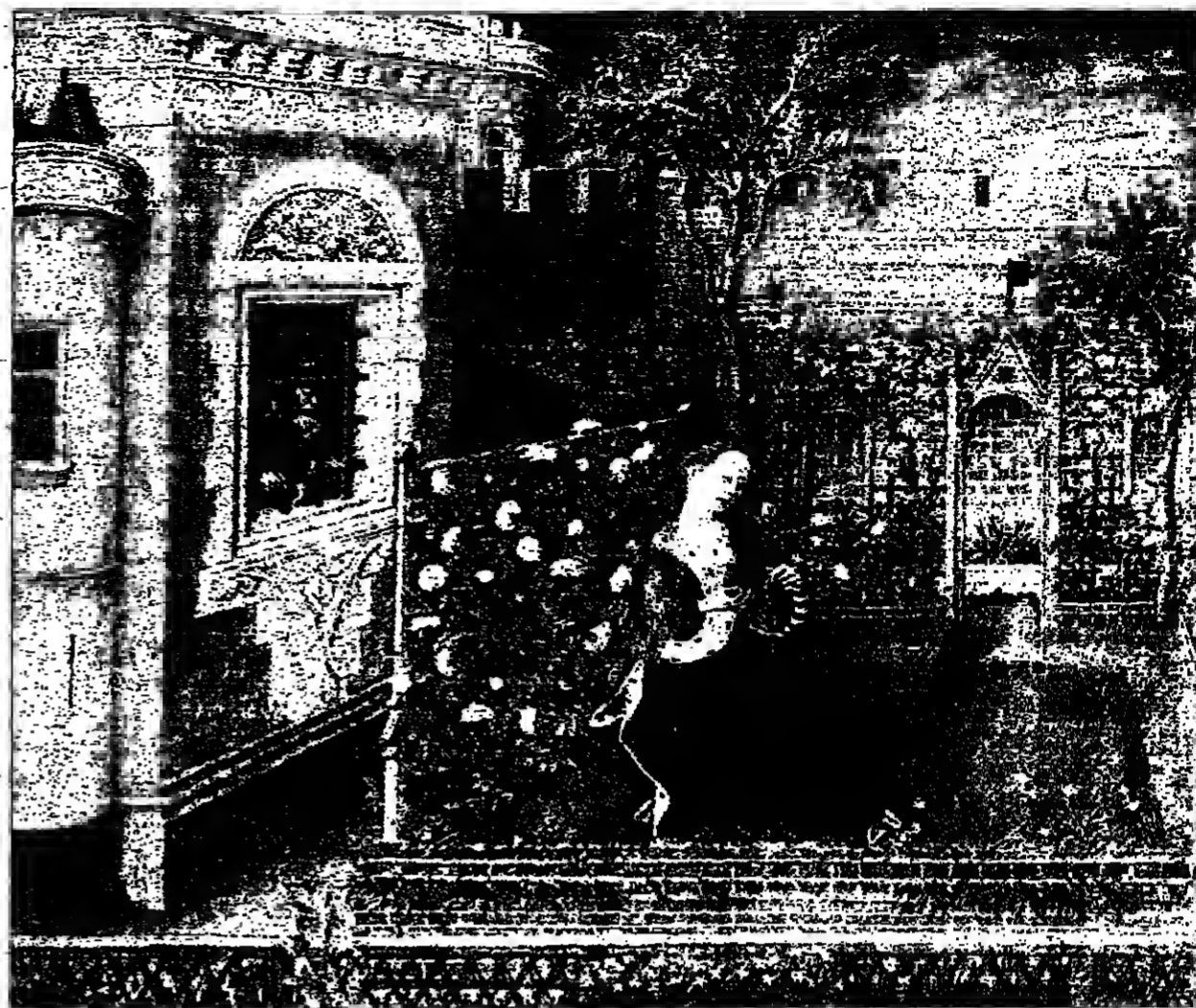
**Garden historian Sylvia Landsberg has designed Queen Eleanor's scented bower.**

The beautiful 15th-century French manuscript shown right is one of the sources that I used to design a garden that would soften the austere Great Hall in Winchester, the only remaining building of Henry III's 13th-century castle.

The original idea came from the Hampshire Gardens Trust, which proposed that a royal pleasure garden of around the same period as the castle be re-created. In 1986 Hampshire County Council built the garden, and it is now open to the public.



The flower-filled bower, left, created as part of Queen Eleanor's Garden in Winchester, was based on this 15th-century French illustration. The whole garden is packed with flowers and ornaments



castle gardens of the time, which were wedged between buildings. It is also similar in size and position to many private London gardens and, like many small, modern ones, it is packed with flowers and ornament in the upright as well as the horizontal plane. A bronze falcon perches atop a hand-carved, stone fountain, a water channel trickles through the garden, and there are stone and wooden benches, with decorations copied from local contemporary garden features. A rose and vine-covered arbour leads towards the enclosed flowery bower where a medieval queen might have retired to play chess or sew.

This is the part of the garden illustrated above, and it is typical of the period. At all levels of medieval society there would be some corner in a garden in which to sit and perhaps eat or drink. The style would range from rough banks and a crude trestle table in a peasant garden, to a high level of carpentry in a royal or aristocratic garden.

The medieval painting shows a turf carpet, the whole probably enclosed by a low brick wall. Planted in a bed built into the top of one wall is a border luxuriant with red and white pinks, taller single carnations and probably marjoram. In the larger surrounding garden, not shown, other scented plants, such as lavender and stocks, complete the olfactory picture. On three sides of the bower garden the backs of the turf seats are planted with red and white roses. *Rosa gallica officinalis*

and *Rosa alba* — now known as the roses of Lancaster and York. Although the method is not visible, these roses are either interwoven into, or tied back onto, the trellises. The back of the enclosure is completed by the vines on the side of the tunnel arbour.

Elaborately carved posts support diagonal and square-patterned trelliswork. At the top of the arched entrance there is a heraldic crest, confirming a wealthy owner. The picture illustrates Boccaccio's *Emilia*, (weaving a subtle garland for her head" in Chaucer's translation for *The Knight's Tale*), sitting here in the shade of two hawthorn trees.

In Queen Eleanor's Garden this French medieval illustration has been re-created to a size of 4yd x 5yd. The turf seats were constructed from stacks of turves to a height of about 20in, filled with soil behind, used to grow the plants. All this is contained within a low wall of limestone blocks. The seats were originally newly pegged-on turves. It has been difficult to prevent these from drying out, and one wonders if they were created for short visits only — a Chelsea flower show effect.

The garden trelliswork is made from 3in x 3in square oak posts, onto which a square trellis of canier poles is nailed. The arbourway is topped by a gold-leafed ball and heraldic shield displaying the quartered devices of Eleanor's father, King of Leon and Castille, which she was entitled to use — gold castle on red, purple lion on white. These were copied from her gilded tomb in Westminster Abbey.

- FACT FILE**
- Based on *The Medieval Garden*, by Sylvia Landsberg, British Museum Press, £12.99. Available February 12, 1996.
  - Queen Eleanor's Garden is open daily from 10am-5pm but is best visited from April to early July. (Queen Eleanor's Garden, Great Hall, the Castle, Winchester, Hants.) Admission free.
  - The author is a garden historian, designer and lecturer who specialises in 12th to 17th century-style gardens, 118 Highfield Lane, Southampton, SO11 1NP.

### HOMES & GARDENS

**Cannock's Winter SALE**  
UP TO 50% OFF LIST PRICES

Wrought Iron Gates  
\* Bargain Prices.  
\* No middle men.  
\* Practical & beautiful.  
\* 100% guaranteed satisfaction.  
\* Order from stock or tailor-made.  
\* Any shape, size or design.

Timber Gates  
\* Direct-from-factory SALE prices.  
\* Selected, seasoned Redwood timber from managed forests.  
\* Top quality built by three served craftsmen.  
\* Manual and automatic.  
\* Huge choice - singles, pairs 5ft to 6ft high.

Send for your FREE copy of our 32 page *Timber & Wrought Iron* full colour SALE catalogue today.  
Catalogue Freeline Service 01543 462500  
or write for your copy to:  
Cannock Gates Ltd, (Dept 77) Howes Green, Cannock, Staffs WS11 2QT  
Midlandwide 3 Day Delivery Service  
Please note that all prices are subject to change without notice.

**NATURAL STONE SALES**

**STONE FLAGS**  
Minimum Order - 50 sq yd from £25 per sq yd.

**SANDSTONE/GRANITE SETTS (COBBLES)**  
Minimum Order - 50 sq yd from £25 per Tonne

SPECIALS CAN BE CATERED FOR.  
DELIVERY NATIONWIDE.  
Please Tele Mobile: 0589 310442

**YORKSTONE FLAGS**  
ALSO LIMESTONE  
Good Quality Direct From Yorkshire

Deliveries Nationwide  
DOLMANS  
Tel: 01274 829564  
Fax: 01274 869953

**COMPOST BINS**  
Delicately rots kitchen and garden waste into rich organic compost - saves the garden 100% daily feed

SMALL	LARGE	KING SIZE
24 inch high 24 inch wide £15.00 In delivery	36 inch high 36 inch wide £17.00 In delivery	48 inch high 48 inch wide £22.00 In delivery

For more information please contact: Special Delivery Units, 118 Highfield Lane, Southampton, SO11 1NP

**COTSWOLD CONCRETE GARAGES**

FOR YOUR FREE COLOUR BROCHURE TEL: 01863 300167  
Dept 57, Standlake, Oxfordshire OX3 7QG

**NEW From BRAMLEY'S ROSARAMA**

ROSARAMA - beautiful - tough - hardy  
Bramley's introduce their colourful special selection of these roses and Rosa Spectabilis. Interpretation will provide an all-the-year-round living wall to transform and protect your garden. Used instead of fences or walls, it is the perfect maintenance free alternative. All summer the profusion of vibrant crimson, magenta, red and white fragrant blooms are showcased against the deep glossy green foliage. In Autumn you can harvest the brilliant hips which are very rich in Vitamin 'C'. (Only 1000000 seeds)

Plant 18 inches apart in rich or even poor soil, for a fast growing hedge that rapidly reaches 6 to 7 feet high.

10 FOR £9.95  
20 FOR £15.65  
50 FOR £30.95  
All sales plus 1.25 p.p.s.

POST YOUR ORDER NOW! CALLERS WELCOME OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

**BRAMLEY'S NURSERIES (TYS)**  
351 BENFLEET ROAD - SOUTH BENFLEET - ESSEX

**Ransomes wins around the world.**

From Pebble Beach to Glencables Ransomes lead the world with innovative design and quality engineering.

British owned and one of the most prestigious names in grass care equipment Ransomes introduced the first lawn mower in 1832.

Enjoy the same expertise on your lawns.

Experience the power and quality of a Westwood garden tractor, specifically designed for the British climate, or one of our Mountfield walk behind mowers designed to suit all sizes of gardens.

No range of machines give better quality, reliability or value for money.

For fully detailed brochures and the name of your nearest stockist, complete and return the coupon to:  
Ransomes Consumer Limited, FREEPOST, Pympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 2BE, or TELEPHONE: 0800 378699

BRITISH ENGINEERING AT ITS BEST

**AT LAST The bath lift that allows you to lie down in your own bath.**

With Bath-Knight, getting in and out of the bath could not be easier. Lie right back and enjoy your own bath - without obstructions.

The retractable head returns to the unit leaving the bath totally free for others.

Hygienic, safe and practical, Bath-Knight operates at the touch of a button with no heavy contraption to lift or clean. And it fits all baths, including spa baths.

Thousands of customers, impressed by the reliability and quality, have been enjoying their own bath, night after night, year after year.

Bath-Knight is only available direct from the manufacturer.

For a FREE colour brochure or further information, call our FREE Careline today on 0500 223442.

Or send this coupon (no stamp required) to: Bath-Knight, FREEPOST (ST1984), Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 6BR.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIMULATED SECURITY TV CAMERA**

SO CONVINCING - ONLY YOU KNOW IT'S NOT RECORDING - THE WOULD BE BURGLAR THINKS IT'S REAL

There is strong evidence that closed circuit security cameras have been very effective in combating break-ins. This solid, robust, 0.75Kg metal unit will give the impression that your home or premises are under constant video surveillance. To give a totally realistic appearance it is fitted with a continuously flashing high intensity red LED lamp, powered by one AA battery (included) which lasts approx. 1 year. Without question this is the most realistic simulated unit on the market. It comes complete with fixing screws and plugs, transfers and a window sticker highlighting the fact that your premises are protected by security cameras. **Keep thieves at bay - order today!** Money Back Guarantee. Allow 7 - 14 days despatch.

ONLY £36.95 inc. (+ £2.05 p.p.s.)  
A small price to pay to protect your property

24 hr Credit Card Hotline 01483 268888  
Quote D1Y/0011

J.E.M. Marketing, Dept. D1Y/0011, Little Mead, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU8 8NG

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Security TV Cameras, at £39.00 each (includes £2.05 p.p.s.). I enclose a cheque/P.O. (address on back) for £\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to J.E.M. Marketing, or please debit my Access/Visa

Card no: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Send to: J.E.M. Security TV Camera Offer, (Dept. D1Y/0011), J.E.M. House, Little Mead, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU8 8ND

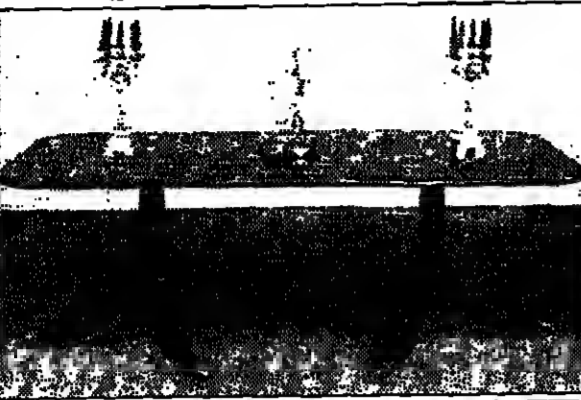
**BEAUTIFUL GARDENS TAKE SHAPE WITH Agriframes**

PERGOLAS, BOWERS, GAZEBOS & WALKWAYS  
SCREENING AND PANELS

SEND NOW FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF BRITAIN'S BIGGEST GARDENING CATALOGUE

For your free J Parkers Spring 1996 Catalogue write or ring J PARKER DUTCH BULBS (WHOLESALE) LTD, DEPT 116, 438 CHESTER ROAD, OLD TRAFFORD, MANCHESTER M16 9HL. Telephone: 0161 872 1700

SOLID MAHOGANY ANTIQUE REPLICA DINING TABLE HANDMADE BY MASTER CRAFTSMEN 30% OFF £1725 NOW £1207 UNTIL 17 FEBRUARY



PRICE PROMISE If you can buy similar style furniture for less money in any High Street shop within a 100 mile radius of London (Sales and special offers included) we will supply you with similar furniture for 10% less than that shop's price.

Visit our factory & showrooms to see the world's largest display of English Antique Replica Furniture at phone for brochure. Also see item 5.39 on page 10.

BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE., BURGESS HILL, WEST SUSSEX RH15 9RX. Tel: 01444 245577

INDIVIDUALLY MADE-TO-MEASURE SKIRTS & TROUSERS Mail order service for ladies and gentlemen BROCHURE AND 100 CLOTH SAMPLES FREE Call 0113 248 8131

WINEBERGS Established 1900 Dept 171, Shannon St, Leeds LS9 8SS

BUY DIRECT! TRADITIONAL LEATHER AND CABINET FURNITURE Prices incl. Vat Send for colour brochure. Full range of traditional leather and cabinet furniture. Lancashire Reproductions Ltd. Freephone 0800-137621



TIDY RAIL SALE £9.95 (incl. VAT) for a 2' x 4' x 12" heavy duty metal rail for home, office, school, hospital, in schools, just (no bolts).

NOT just a choice of sleeve length. A Seymour Shirt is GENUINELY CUSTOM TAILORED EXACT SLEEVE LENGTH. CORRECT BODY SIZE. CHOICE OF COLLAR SHAPES. CHOICE OF FRONT STYLES. CHOICE OF CUFF STYLES. CHOICE OF SHOULDER FIT. CHOICE OF BODY LENGTH. CHOICE OF 40 FABRICS. TAILS OR SQUARE BOTTOMS. FULL STANDARD OR SLIM FITS. AFTER SALES SERVICE.

MORIARTI'S SOLID PINE STORAGE BEDS For NEW colour brochure (01233) 850214

SEYMOUR SHIRTS FREEMONT, Dept XX, Bradford BD1 1BR. Tel: 01274 726520

TRADITIONAL TOAST RACK - ONLY £9.99 (incl. VAT) Hand-crafted in steel for a lifetime's guarantee. FREE catalogue exclusively available from Wooden Toys and Tin Men Wood Craft Workshops, Chalkwell, Devon. Tel: 01626 852777 Fax: 01626 852224

EIDERDOWNS RE-COVERED Also DUVETS RECOVERED. NEW FEATHER EIDERDOWNS. Please send stamp for patterns. Keys of Garton Ltd, Dept 1039, 132 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3AJ. Tel: 01255 432518

THE HSL 'SIESTA' RECLINER £299 £199 SAVE £100 - SEND FOR £100 MONEY OFF VOUCHER

Our 28 years experience is your safeguard for future satisfaction. We're so sure you'll be delighted we invite you to try one in your home. If unsuitable, ask to collect it & we'll refund your money under our 7 day money-back guarantee. FOR £100 MONEY-OFF VOUCHER & brochure PHONE 01924 464809 or write to: HSL DEPT TM22, BRADFORD ROAD, DEWSBURY WF13 2AB.

The Safeguard

Why Safeguard? We have all seen the numerous adverts for 'miracle' products... What is Safeguard? Safeguard is an HD plus... Buy Direct & Save Tel: (01924) 457468

The best tomato you've ever tasted

now you too can harvest meal after meal of huge luscious, mouth watering Tomatoes all season long! I'd like to share the good news with Tomato Lovers everywhere about a remarkable Tomato that will revolutionise amateur gardening... that someday will be in everyone's garden. Act promptly and you can be one of the FIRST home gardeners to grow it now!

Amazing tomato literally pours forth succulent, juicy tomatoes 12" - 13" even 14" or more around. Send us a snapshot of your biggest Miracle-Bush Tomato and if it's the biggest tomato of all We'll pay you a £1,000 AWARD. Incredible Delicious Taste. When it comes to taste, this fabulous Tomato is the all-time champ. Quite frankly, it's the best Tomato I've ever tasted! Its ruby red flesh literally bursts forth with juicy goodness... bursts forth with flavour and an intense Tomato taste. Each succulent fruit is a whopping 12" - 13" - even 14" or more in circumference. And you'll harvest POUNDS of these exquisite good-tasting Tomatoes from every single plant!

NATURAL RELIEF FROM BACKPAIN

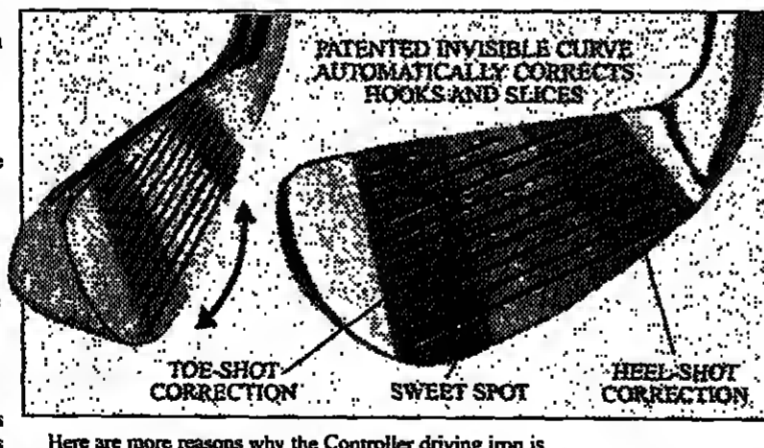
Let your body's weight gently stretch the spine and relieve pressure and pain - completely naturally. Reverse the toll of gravity on your body. Hundreds of highly satisfied customers including doctors, osteopaths and chiropractors and dozens of appreciative testimonials. Send or ring today for your free colour information pack. The day I read about the Backswing in a magazine was the luckiest day of my life. Mr. A.J.H. (01503) 272 127

Yes! Please send me a brochure on Backswing. Surname Forename Address Postcode Telephone Send To: Health at Home, FREEPOST, Polyne, Looe, Cornwall, PL13 2JD.

NEW!... THE MOST POWERFUL... MOST ACCURATE CLUB IN GOLF!

THE CONTROLLER® HITS 30-50 YARDS LONGER, AUTOMATICALLY CORRECTS HOOKS AND SLICES... MUST CUT STROKES - OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

Put your No.3, No.4 and No.5 woods in the cellar. Tests show our new Controller® driving iron can out-hit all three by 30 to 50 yards. And that's only half the story. The Controller automatically corrects hooks and slices! The club is so powerful, so accurate, we unconditionally guarantee it will cut 5 to 10 strokes off your score - or you owe us nothing! In fact, to prove it we'll send you one risk-free. Test it against your No.3 wood. If it doesn't give you 30 more yards (if you are a fairly good golfer), send the club back for a refund. But it will give you 30 more yards! In fact, the Controller is so powerful many golfers use it off the tee, especially on narrow fairways. Here is the Controller's exact distance advantage as compiled by some low-80's golfers. CONTROLLER® 220 yards No.3 Wood 190 yards No.4 Wood 180 yards No.5 Wood 170 yards



Here are more reasons why the Controller driving iron is going to give you the best golf of your life... it gives you the power of a driver with the control of an iron... its sleek, smooth head swoops through the grass more cleanly than a wood... its 17° loft gets your shot up faster than a No.3 wood... its smaller head size (versus a Wood) boosts clubhead speed... its 100% carbon-graphite shaft model adds even more clubhead speed... it lets you carry more wedges and putters without exceeding the 14-club limit (by eliminating your No.3, No.4 and No.5 wood)...

THE GREATEST STROKE-CUTTER IN GOLF These scientific breakthroughs make the Controller driving iron the most powerful stroke-cutter in golf. We believe the club will transform the game. First of all, it makes fairway woods obsolete! The Controller not only hits 30 to 50 yards further than fairway woods, it automatically corrects hooks and slices! Here's how it works. AUTOMATIC ACCURACY The Controller has an invisible curve across its hitting surface - a curve that's going to revolutionise your game. No other iron has it! Hit a shot off the Controller's sweet spot and it will go straight, as it would with an ordinary iron. But even pros hit off the heel and toe. Now, here is the Controller's genius... here is why you could cut as many as 10 strokes off your score. Hit the ball off the Controller's heel or toe and its invisible curve will automatically impart a corrective spin to what would otherwise be a disastrous hook or slice. The ball will actually fade or draw back on course! It's an incredible sight and you can prove it yourself with only a few test shots. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT GOLFING BREAKTHROUGH IN GENERATIONS. ALONG WITH THE CONTROLLER'S EXTRA 30-50 YARDS, YOU SHOULD EASILY CUT 5-10 STROKES OFF YOUR GAME!

IN THE YEAR 2001, ALEX & ANNE WILL LOOK 5 YEARS OLDER... BUT THEIR SHOES WON'T!!!

World's Most Comfortable Shoe? WE DARE YOU TO WEAR THEM OUT!



For Only £10 (Will outlast shoes costing £99.95) During Guaranteed Lifetime... Never need polishing Heels and soles never need repair. Classic Styling - Perfect for Both Dress & Casual Wear. So comfortable and flexible, they make walking an absolute joy. Yet so durable and long lasting - we dare you to wear them out. They never need polishing. Their shine lasts for the life of the shoes. The heels and soles never need repair during guaranteed lifetime. They are 100% water resistant to keep you warm, clean and dry. Our Guarantee: Wear them for 5 full years, and if they don't look as new as the day you bought them - we'll send you a new pair free. (This does not affect your statutory rights)

Telephone Ordering Service ACCESS/VISA CARD HOLDERS PLEASE DIAL 0151 708 7777 QUOTING AXIOM DEPT 838-105 YOUR ORDER BETWEEN 8.30AM-10.00PM ALSO AT WEEKENDS

# Putting the Roman back into romance

Jill Parkin tests a selection of Valentine presents to see if they succeed in setting your beloved's pulse racing

The Roman fertility festival of Lupercalia is just days away and there's not a wolfskin thong to be had anywhere. Not for love or money. First the sacrificing of dogs was outlawed, then wolves became extinct in Britain, which made running about in their skins tricky. Finally, public thronging of women lost some of its political correctness. Eventually Valentine's Day took over — and it's all about love and romance.

Instead of enjoying a good old fertility festival, we send an out-of-season red rose with a weak neck that breaks after a day or two. Who was St Valentine anyway? He has been omitted from the calendar of saints' days as probably non-existent. He has survived only because his alleged martyrdom day falls a day before Lupercalia.

Be conventional on the 14th if you wish, but purists should reclaim their day with something Roman. Examining the entrails of a dog for omens may be going a bit far, but there's no reason why you shouldn't shuck an oyster or 12 and examine their innards with a loved one. Half a dozen of the aphrodisiac bivalves will cost £13.50 at Wheelers in London and Brighton or £3.95 at the Magpie Café in Whitby.

Today's Antonys might fancy giving asses milk to their Cleopatras, but will probably have to settle for a bathful of goat or sheep milk instead. That could be pricey: Harrods charges £1.10 and £1.30 a pint.

If you'd die for your love, send him a CD of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and hope he arrives with several gallons of sheep's milk to douse your funeral pyre before it gets too warm.

If your sweetheart is literary-minded, remember the Romans were good on erotica. Whatever your sexual preference, Catullus (*Poems*, Penguin Classics, £6.99), and Ovid (*The Erotic Poems*, Penguin Classics, £3.99) will have done it and commemorated it in verse.

I've always wanted a man to buy me packets of seeds of all Shakespeare's flowers. He could plant them in a Bard border, and I could trip among them muttering about rosemary for remembrance and pansies for thoughts. If you like the idea, but not the digging, go for the book — *Shakespeare's Flowers*, Royal Shakespeare Company, £4.99 — telephone orders 01789 296860.

Underwear is a tricky one. The shops I rang all said: "Something red for Valentine's Day." I think red is tart, but men call it passionate. Only to be embarked on if you know your love really well.

For a cheeky variation on the chocolate theme, try Chocolate Body Paint (BHS, £3.50). It's for spreading on ice-cream, bread or bodies. Not to be mixed with expensive underwear.

You could actually use the line "Come up and see my etchings" if you had one of the heart designs by Jenny Tapping waiting for your sweetheart. The tiny, hand-coloured etchings range from £11.50 to £19.50. Ring 01789 247865 for details.

If you have the money to shop at Cartier (0171-493 6962) and yet would like to keep tabs on your investment, their gold love bangle (from £2,600) may be for you. It has to be put on by the giver and comes complete with screwdriver.

Lupercalia was still on my mind when I asked our Valentine testing panel to check out a few of this year's gifts. "Send me a young man in a wolfskin," I cried. Instead, I got Perry Cleveland-Peck, an editorial assistant at *The Times*, in a silk shirt.

Our panel consisted of Perry, 25, my husband, 53, my stepdaughter, 16, and me, 37. In all cases, our judgment may have been distorted by consumption of too many chocolates.

**MOSS TEDDY BEAR**  
Fitzroy's, £35 (0171-722 1066). Next-day delivery in London. Allow up to a week for the rest of the UK. With regular watering the bear could last three years.

JP: When I first saw him I wasn't sure, but he's growing on me...  
Husband: He's very good, but I'd be rather worried if someone gave him to me. Who was that chap in *Brideshead*? I'd only give it to someone who was mad about bears. And I don't think I'd want to be involved with a woman who was mad about them.

PC-P: He's fantastic. I'd definitely buy him for my girlfriend. I'd be pleased to be given him too. (Perry and Teddy left the testing together.)  
Sweet 16: He's fun. He doesn't scream "commitment" at you. Non-threatening.  
Heart rate — 5 out of 5. But only for the young ones. And isn't three years of watering a commitment?

**HEART-SHAPED CALCULATOR**  
Fenwicks, £13.50. Available by mail order on 0171-629 9161. With jewel-coloured keys.

JP: I haven't got the self-confidence to like something that vulgar.  
Husband: Does it play a tune?

PC-P: For teenagers — but it's tacky.  
Sweet 16: I actually know someone with one of these. Not for me. I suppose if you put in on your desk it tells the world you've had a Valentine.

Heart rate — 1. My three-year-old fell for it but her idea of a Valentine is Thomas the Tank Engine.

**FLOWERS FOR A MAN**  
Interflora, £30 — freephone number is 0500 43 43 43. Our florist came up with a burst of red and yellow — sunflowers, amaryllis and carnations, backed up with eucalyptus and willow. It was the hit of the testing, even with my husband, who had complained about the smell of some hyacinth flowers the day before.

JP: Just right for a man. Nothing droopy or Victorian about this. No ribbons, no scent. Given to a woman, it wouldn't be romantic, but this would knock a chap over without being cloying.

Husband: Almost shockingly good. It's in a water-bag, so you don't have the fuss of having to arrange it. I'd just plonk the whole thing in the salad bowl. If you had this in your flat and a mate came round, you wouldn't be embarrassed. Just the job. Not smelly, either.

PC-P: I'd be really flattered if a woman sent me flowers. No problem with that at all. These make a good splash.

Sweet 16: I'm not really into flowers. It's quite a heavy thing to send someone.

Heart rate — 5. Ask your florist for "a good splash".

**LOVE ME, LOVE ME NOT CUFFLINKS**  
White enamel cufflinks with small red hearts, one broken. Sackville and Jones from Fenwicks, £14.95. Available by mail order on 0171-629 9161.

JP: I've never bought a man cufflinks. These are quite jolly. Small and not flashy.  
Husband: They're witty. I'd wear them.

PC-P: I'd be quite thrilled with these. Cufflinks are a great idea.

Sweet 16: Pass.  
Heart rate — 4.

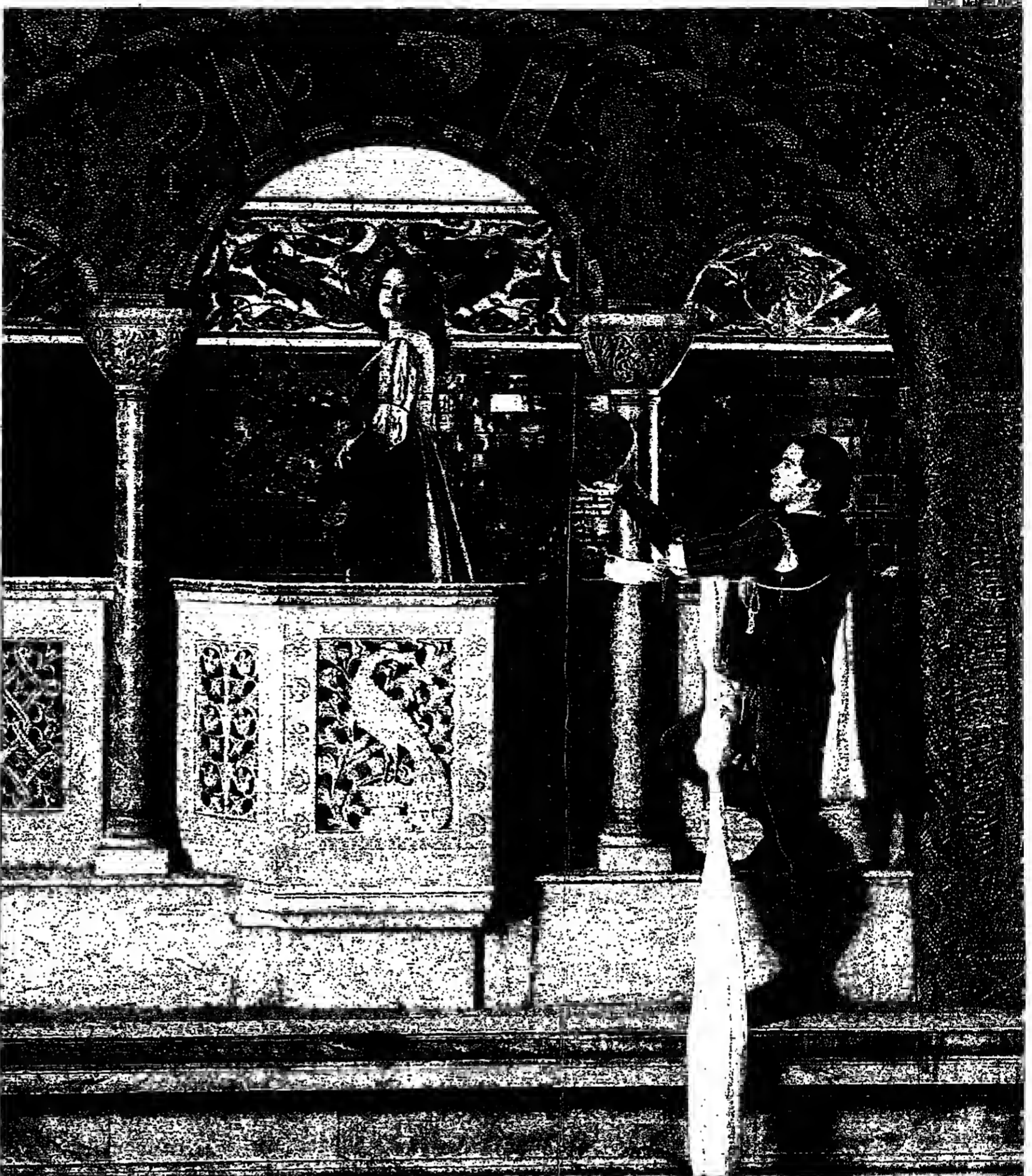
**AMOR VINCIT OMNIA PICTURE FRAME**  
Metal gilt-embossed frame 4in x 3in with small heart-shaped cut-out for photograph. Modulus from Fenwicks, £23.95. Available by mail order on 0171-629 9161.

JP: It's good and heavy but it doesn't improve with time.

Husband: Hideous.  
PC-P: It's OK, nice and weighty. I like it more than when I first saw it.

Sweet 16: Not at all.  
Heart rate — 2.

**HEART AND BIRDS WALL HANGING**  
Red plaster heart, 6in high, with two lovebirds perched on top. Liberty, £9.95. Mail order: 0171-734 1234.  
JP: I like this. It may be heart-shaped but it looks a bit rough-hewn, almost



Romeo and Juliet would probably opt for the traditional love tokens of flowers and chocolates, but you could try the moss teddy bear from Fitzroy's, £35

distressed, which stops it being naff.  
Husband: I like it more than I did at first. In the right place it would be fine: there aren't many right places.  
PC-P: I've been to houses full of things like this. It's good.  
Sweet 16: It's worse than the picture frame. It looks like a decoration for a house in *Neighbours*.  
Heart rate — 3.

**CHARBONNEL ET WALKER CHOCOLATES**  
Heart-shaped box with I Love You or other message in gold-wrapped choocs, £34 for 28oz or heart-shaped chocolates in hand-made fabric box, £20 for a quarter of a pound. Available by mail order on 0171-491 0639.

JP: The little hand-made box is lovely. If it's an established relationship, this is the one.  
Husband: No. Go for quantity. The big box is the one. The I Love You message is irrelevant. The heart-shaped box registers with you and you can't wait to tear into the choocs.

PC-P: The small box would be better for someone you want to woo. It's subtle. The big one is for an established relationship. You expect to share those on the sofa. The little box is just enough for one.  
Sweet 16: Love the choocs. It's a schmaltzy idea, but who's going to complain?  
Heart rate — 4.

**BED CUSHIONS**  
Heavily embroidered cushions, 14in x 14in, with Shakespearean quotes from *Midsummer Night's Dream* or *Romeo and Juliet*. Royal Shakespeare Company, 01789 296860. *Titania*, £15.99; *Romeo and Juliet*, £16.99.

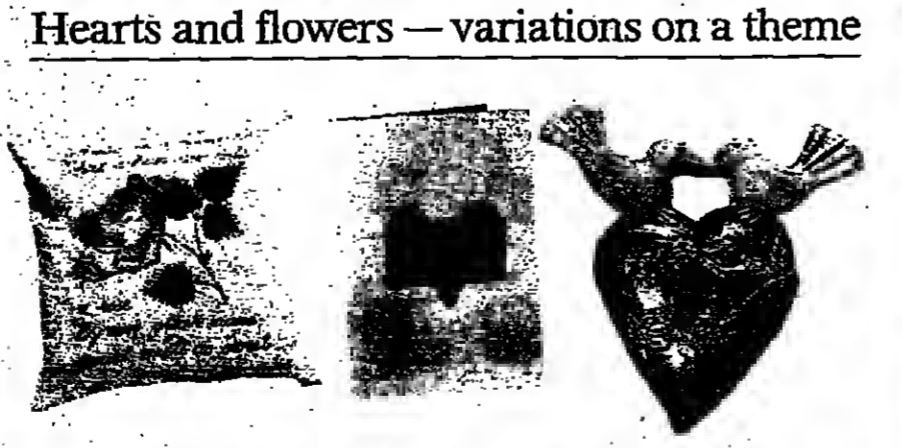
JP: They're beautiful and sexy. I'd prefer these to underwear any time.  
Husband: A bit different. Quite a strong message — not for someone you've just met at the bus-stop.  
PC-P: A lovely romantic gesture.  
Sweet 16: Almost as good as the choocs.  
Heart rate — 4.

**HAND-MADE CARDS FROM THE RSC**  
Royal Shakespeare Company, 01789 296860. Printed with hearts and a romantic quotation from Shakespeare, £2.85 or £10 for four; also from Liberty, £3.95.  
JP: I think these are adorable. Mass-produced cards can be dreadful unless you get those "blank for your own message" ones.  
Husband: They're almost a present in themselves. Though it's rather playing the field to buy four in a pack, isn't it?  
PC-P: I like this idea. It shows you've given the person some thought.  
Sweet 16: Exactly. It's much nicer than just grabbing something off the shelf.  
Heart rate — 5.

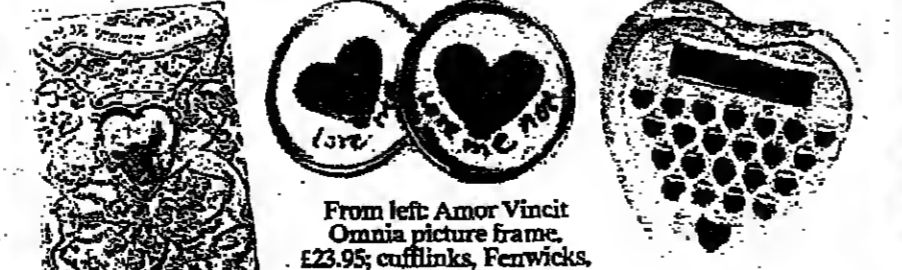
Costumiers: Angals & Berman (0171-826 5678).  
Flowers: Paula Payne (0171-839 7323) for Interflora.  
Shot at The Peacock House, Addison Road, Holland Park, London, with thanks to the Richmond Fellowship.



Romeo with Flowers for a Man arrangement from Interflora, £30



Above, from left bed cushions, £15.99; hand-made cards, £2.84 (or £10 for four) from the Royal Shakespeare Company; heart and birds wall hanging, Liberty, £9.95



From left: Amor Vincit Omnia picture frame, £23.95; cufflinks, Fenwicks, £14.95; calculator, £13.50



Juliet with Charbonnel et Walker chocolates, £34 for 28oz box

**DIVERTIMENTI**

splash out...

on beautiful cookware from the new Divertimenti spring catalogue

Divertimenti's new 52-page catalogue is full of beautiful, high quality cookware — perfect for cooking and entertaining this spring. From stylish Italian olive oil cans to sturdy glass pestles and mortars; from mouth-watering Valrhona chocolate to exclusive hand-painted Italian china, you'll find a unique selection of products to choose from.

Order your free copy now.

Telephone 0171 386 9911 or complete the form

Divertimenti (Mail Order) Limited, P.O. Box 6811, London SW6 8XU

Please send me a free Divertimenti catalogue

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode

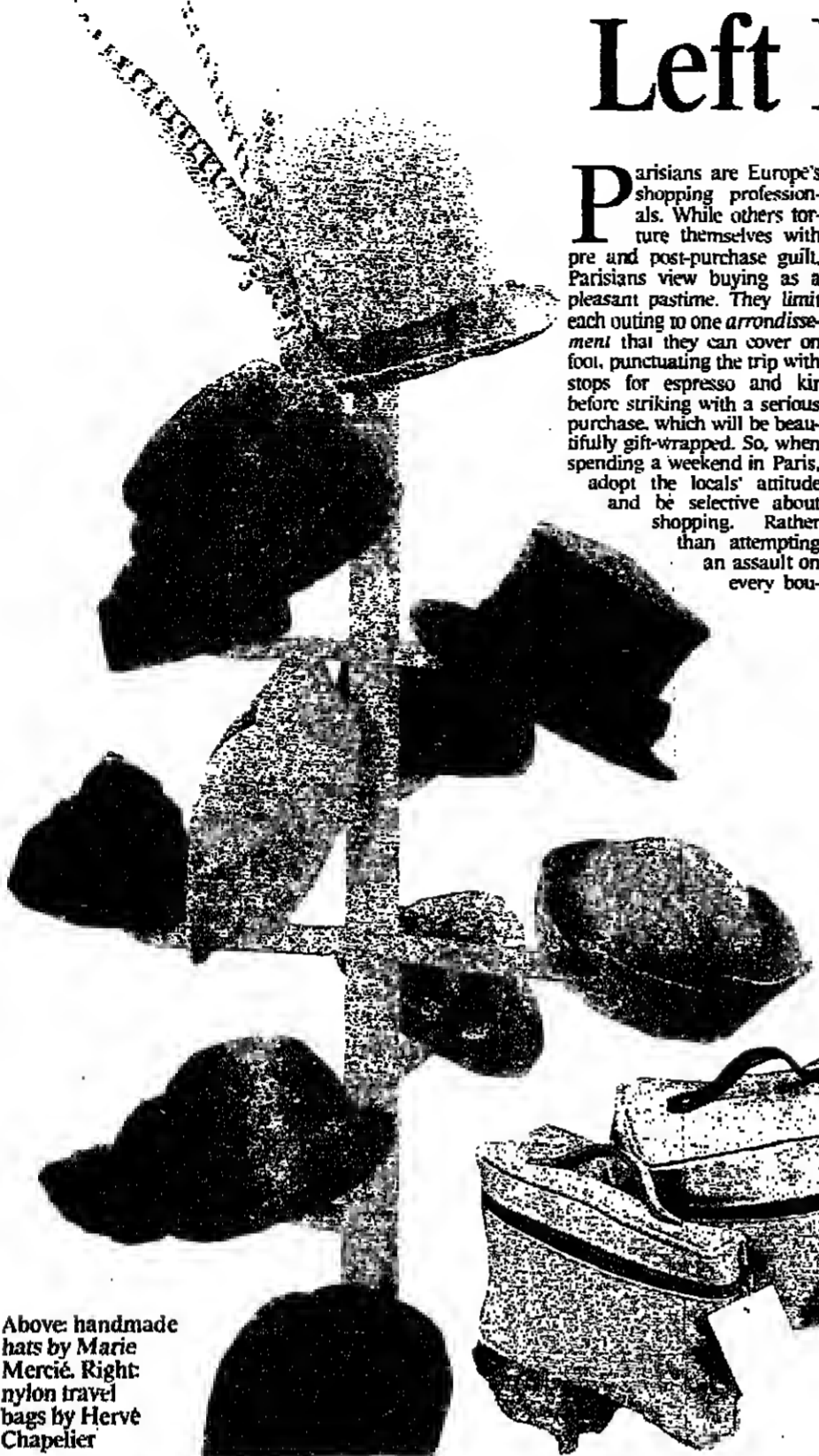
W1T 1

for people who love to cook

# SHOPPING

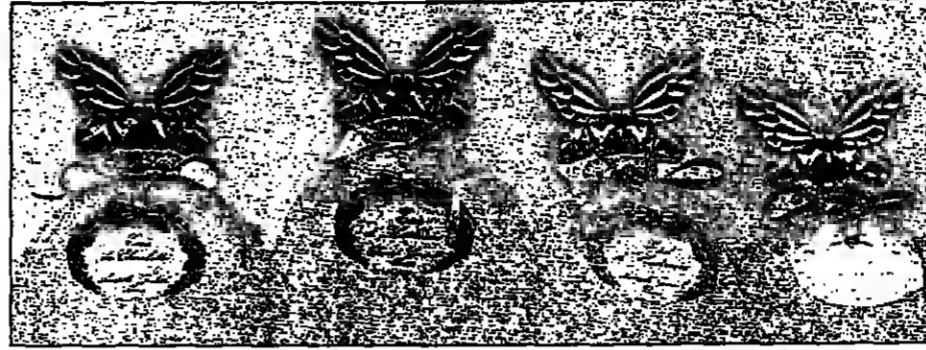
Next time you're in Paris for le weekend, follow in the footsteps of Alicia Drake for a successful buying spree

## Left Bank, right buys



Above: handmade hats by Marie Mercie. Right: nylon travel bags by Hervé Chapelier

Parisians are Europe's shopping professionals. While others torture themselves with pre and post-purchase guilt, Parisians view buying as a pleasant pastime. They limit each outing to one *arrondissement* that they can cover on foot, punctuating the trip with stops for espresso and kir before striking with a serious purchase, which will be beautifully gift-wrapped. So, when spending a weekend in Paris, adopt the locals' attitude and be selective about shopping. Rather than attempting an assault on every bou-

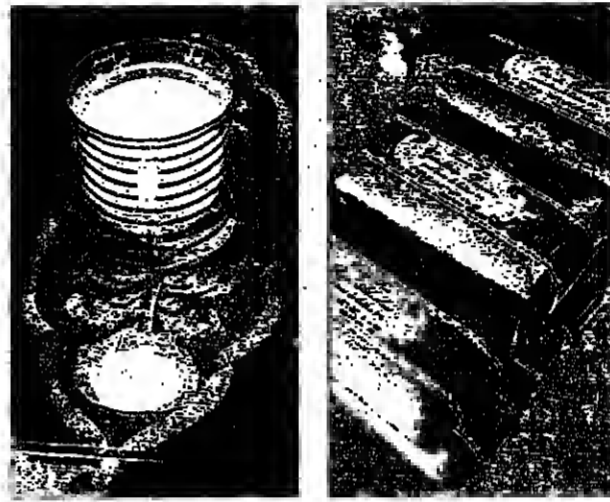


A range of fragrances by Annick Goutal — eau de toilette from £30, perfume from £40

tique, department store and flea market, choose one area and walk it. The quarter around St Sulpice and St-Germain des Prés on the Left Bank is ideal. The streets are full of shops selling everything from chandeliers to foie gras, and the area has many attractive squares and cafés.

Start around the church of St Sulpice, built about 1700. If you want a kickstart, there is the great little Café de la Mairie, which faces on to the place St Sulpice. The north side of the square used to be lined with shops selling surplices and rosaries, but these have been replaced gradually by boutiques and the couturiers Yves Saint Laurent and Christian Lacroix.

The suggested shops on my route have been chosen for products that are not widely available in Britain. Just off the square at 1 rue du Vieux Colombine is Hervé Chapelier (00 331 440 70650), which sells smart nylon weekend bags and backpacks. In Paris, adults buy Chapelier's cashmere sweaters and students buy his bags, but these are far too good to be kept for lectures. All bags are lightweight, machine-washable and in duo colour combinations, such as chocolate brown and pale pink, or navy and deep crimson. Prices



Candle (left) £38.70, soaps £10.50 each. From Annick Goutal

start at Fr135 (£18) for a bath bag, Fr190 (£25.35) for a vanity case, and Fr300 (£40) for a weekend bag.

Diagonally opposite at No 12 place St Sulpice is the perfumery Annick Goutal (463 90315). You are now heading into Parisian "luxe" country. A former concert pianist, Goutal started making scents in 1981. Her perfumes are stylish and discreet and their exclusivity gives them the edge on most commercial scents. Madonna wears Passion, the Prince of Wales uses eau d'Hadrien, and when Prince William was born the late President Mitterrand sent him a gift of the baby scent.

Sulpice stocks scented candles in glasses, which the Parisians are mad about, refillable and priced at Fr290 (£38.70). Bars of bath soap are Fr79 (£10.55) and there is a range of fragrances in eau de toilette, from Fr220 (£30), or eau de parfum, from Fr296 (£40).

Then turn left and wander along the rue St Sulpice for window shopping or real shopping depending on your budget, with the Catherine Memmi boutique (440 72226) at No 34 for cool cream and beige table linen and Beauté Divine (432 62531) at No 40 for antique objects for the dressing table.

At No 23 is the milliner Marie Mercie (432 64583). Self-taught, and a former Edi-



Marie Mercie hat, from £240

tor of the socialist magazine *Latitude*, Mme Mercie says that, when designing, she imagines "a beautiful woman with panache, who would have fought in the Resistance". Her hats are often quirky, always stylish and are lapped up by Parisians, and by French and American actresses.

For daywear, Mme Mercie offers funky felts, such as a hand-made crenellated hat costing Fr1,400 (£186). For evening and weddings she has more extravagant creations, which start at about Fr1,800 (£240) and are often made to measure. If you are in Paris just for the weekend and have a *coup de foudre* (love at first sight) for one of her made-to-measure hats, she can take measurements and send you the hat in about three weeks.

Turn left up the rue de Seine and then left again on to the boulevard St Germain and head for the Café Flore at No 172, an ideal spot for lunch. Less touristy than Les Deux Magots next door, it's one of those Left Bank *philosophes* cafés from the 1910s, now turned Paris glamazon.

A glass or so of bordeaux later, you can step out along boulevard St Germain to rue des Saints Pères, turn right, and down the road at No 30 is the chocolatier Dehauve & Gallais (454 85467). Established in 1800, the firm made chocolates for Charles X and Louis XVIII, and still makes a dental-defying selection of luxury chocolates at Fr440 (£59)

per kilo. If you still have the francs and energy, cross back over the boulevard St Germain and follow rue des Saints Pères until you meet the Carrefour de la Croix Rouge. Here is the Comtesse du Barry shop (454 83204), perfect for stocking up on jars of foie gras or *boudin* (an un-speakable piece of offal rather like black pudding which Parisians love), from Fr61 (£8.15) and Fr44 (£5.90) respectively.

Just along the rue du Cherche Midi et No 4 is the swimming costume store Erès (454 49554). If you have ever wondered where those Côte d'Azur sophisticates get their slick bathing suits, this is the place. The costumes, one-piece or two, are simple, flattering and well cut, with prices at Fr555 (£73) for a basic bikini and Fr750 (£100) for a one-piece. You can buy bikini tops and bottoms separately to mix and match to suit your shape. Back at the crossroads and off to your left at Sévres Babylone is the department store Le Bon Marché (426 03345), which is small, slightly old-fashioned and the preferred department store of Parisians. The ground floor has a big new menswear department, Balhazar, which stocks Givenchy, Hermès, Kenzo and Celine.

This may now be the time to gather up all your bags and follow another Parisian custom — slip off to a bar and sit watching the world go by.

Books, page 12  
Travel, pages 18 and 19

**LOW COST MOBILE PHONE HIRE**  
CALL A PHONE 0800 410041

**CUBES SHELVING TRESTLES DESKS ETC**  
Inexpensive drawers, record units, wardrobes, cupboards & shelving, beech, white, black for home/work. Mail-order catalogue (or visit us) CubeStore 58 Pembroke Rd W8 0181 994 6016. (24hrs) also Suffolk

**THE GOLDCREST**  
in fine bone china and bronze  
A classic study by Britain's leading bird sculptor, David Fryer. Available exclusively from The Countrywide Collection, FREEPOST (EN17) Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 5YZ. Call or write for full details: Tel: 01626 331059 Fax: 01626 331114

**High Linen/Cotton**  
38% Linen/42% Cotton  
White Sheets 70" x 100" £18.00 each  
White Pillow Cases £3.00 each  
FREE Delivery & Packing  
For further details phone (01793) 848558  
**CHANGEWEAR**  
LIFE FASHION STORES & BOOTERY  
BAMPTON SWINDON, WILTS. SN4 7AY

**FACTORY SHOP**  
SOFAS & SOFA BEDS  
From Factory to you! NO MIDDLEMAN!  
Specialist in your own requirements. Design your own or choose from our range of sofas, sofa beds, armchairs, ottomans. A choice of hundreds of fabrics from manufacturers Liberty, John Glegg and others. All work carried out by crafts men and women. Not mass produced. We also undertake re-upholstering to the public and antique dealers.

**POETSTYLE LTD**  
Unit 1, Bayford Street Industrial Centre  
Hickson, London, E8 3SE.  
Tel: 0181 533 0915

**HOUSE DUST MITE? ASTHMA? RHINITIS? AIRBORNE MITE FREE COT & MATTRESS DUVETS**  
Send for details & VAT exemption  
Allergy Relief Products Ltd, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 5JH  
Tel: 01753 332919/586709  
Fax: 01753 332919/676226

**GENUINE GIBSON'S NEWSPAPERS**  
From famous archive saved from 1642-1995. Also Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Same day dispatch.  
**REMEMBER WHEN**  
500 Brighton Road, South Croydon, Surrey  
0181-688 6323

### Listen to your TV or Hi-Fi wherever you are around the home without disturbing others!

**NEW FM MODEL**  
Do not confuse with cheap Infra Red units that only work in direct line with the user.

Headphones receive high quality sound wherever you want it.

Neat FM Transmitter fits on top of TV or Hi-Fi (or can be wall mounted).

Built-in volume control ensures perfect reception.

Automatic Crystal Lock fine tuning.

Watch TV at a volume that suits you without disturbing others.

Listen to your Hi-Fi System as you wander from room to room.

Stay in touch with your favourite records, tapes, CD's, cassettes or TV listening, wherever you are, indoors or out.

**WAS £43.95**  
**NOW REDUCED TO ONLY £29.95** +P&P  
**you save £11**

**NEW FM SPEAKERS SEE BELOW**

**BONUS SPEAKER OFFER**

**NEW - FM Wireless Speakers**  
Now you can position speakers anywhere in your home without the need for wires. The FM Transmitter, offered above works with the speakers just as it does with the headphones. High quality sound anywhere in the home or AROUND SOUND effect for your TV. Size: 13cm tall x 9cm wide x 9cm deep. One Speaker only £19.95. SAVE £3 Two Speakers only £35.95. SAVE £9 Three Speakers only £49.95. SAVE £17 Four Speakers only £61.95.

**Works with any TV or Audio Equipment**  
In the unlikely event that your TV or Audio equipment does not have an earphone socket into which you plug your transmitter, then you can simply attach the unique auxiliary microphone to your speaker and transmit the sound direct from the speaker to your headphones in this way it gives excellent service even with old model TVs and Hi-Fi's. **LARGE SAVING** Now only £29.95 + £3.95 p&p. Or SAVE an extra £14 when you buy two for only £58 POST PAID.

**SPEED PHONE ORDERING SERVICE**  
016 274 3000

Item	Qty.	Price	Total
Magna Sound	1	£29.95	£29.95
Magna Sound x 2	2	£59.90	£119.80
Speaker x 1	1	£19.95	£19.95
Speaker x 2	2	£35.95	£71.90
Speaker x 3	3	£49.95	£149.85
Speaker x 4	4	£61.95	£247.80
Post & Packing		£2.95	£2.95
Grand Total			

Enclose cheque/P.O. for £... inc. p&p made payable to Miller Manufacturing Products Account. Or debit my Access/Visa Card.

Card Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Shoppers Welcome  
The Magna Sound 3000 is available for the price at addresses above.  
Miller Manufacturing (Dept. 10677),  
Haverhill Avenue, off Coleman Road,  
Leicester LE5 4NR.  
We look after you! We are happy to accept orders for security reasons, but we hold the money on your behalf in a special trust account until you place an order with us.  
We deliver to all addresses in the UK, including H. Island.  
Please allow 7-14 days for delivery.

**RISING DAMP?**  
TACKLE IT WITH WALLGUARD

A SYSTEM IN PRACTICE FOR OVER 60 YEARS

The Wallguard ceramic tube system of damp proofing has been in use in ancient and famous buildings for many years. A prime example is Westminster Abbey in which the system was first fitted in 1932 — and was recently added to by Wallguard.

- No internal plaster disturbed
- Suitable for any type of wall finish
- Vent plate available in white or brown to match wall
- Ceramic tubes tailor made to fit any thickness of wall

You can have the Wallguard system installed in your home to combat rising damp or replace a conventional damp proof course that has failed. Since Wallguard is normally fitted from the outside, internal wall surfaces and decorations need not be disturbed — unless they are already badly affected. Brick, Stone, Granite etc. Whatever thickness of wall we can do it.

**NO MAINTENANCE NO MESS NO FUSS**  
Also ask about our condensation and mould control service.

**WALLGUARD**  
YOU'RE HOME AND DRY

For further details or to arrange for a survey  
PHONE US FREE ON 0800 508608

Fill in the coupon — no postage required on Wallguard Manchester M16 8HR.

My chemical injection has failed  No existing damp proof course  
 Conventional damp proof course has failed  Condensation Control  
 I would like to eliminate damp once and for all.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: WALLGUARD, FREEPOST MR 8787, MANCHESTER M16 8HR.

**Recreating the period. Perfectly.**

At William Tillman our craftsmen lovingly create modern masterpieces that reproduce the finest examples of English 18th and 19th century furniture to perfection.

Call now and let us introduce you to quality that cannot be surpassed anywhere.

**WILLIAM TILLMAN**  
When only perfection is good enough

30 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1HB  
Telephone: 0171-839 2500 Fax: 0171-930 8106  
14-24 Crouch Lane, Borough Green, Kent TN11 5BLT  
Telephone: 01732-883278 Fax: 01732-884439



TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 481 1066  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

# SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

## SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

**ALONE ON HOLIDAY?** Join a weekend party in Turkey for 1000 people. Good food, entertainment, dancing, singing, etc. 4-5 days. Reply to Box No. 3528.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3529.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3530.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3531.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3532.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3533.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3534.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3535.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3536.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3537.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3538.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3539.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3540.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3541.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3542.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3543.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3544.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3545.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3546.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3547.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3548.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3549.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3550.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3551.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3552.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3553.

**AMERICAN GIRL** 18-25. Beautiful, intelligent, fun-loving. Reply to Box No. 3554.

## LADIES

**BERKSHIRE** Former nurse, 45, divorced, attractive, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3525.

**BLUE EYED** Blonde, 30, professional, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3526.

**CANADIAN** professional lady, 40, divorced, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3527.

**CONVERSATION** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3528.

**ACTIVE** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3529.

**AFRICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3530.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3531.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3532.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3533.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3534.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3535.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3536.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3537.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3538.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3539.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3540.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3541.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3542.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3543.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3544.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3545.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3546.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3547.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3548.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3549.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3550.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3551.

## GENTLEMEN

**DOCTOR** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3525.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3526.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3527.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3528.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3529.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3530.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3531.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3532.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3533.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3534.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3535.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3536.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3537.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3538.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3539.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3540.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3541.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3542.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3543.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3544.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3545.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3546.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3547.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3548.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3549.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3550.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3551.

## SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

**INTERESTING** good looking, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3525.

**IRISH LADIES** attractive, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3526.

**MEMBER** an offer you can't refuse! Reply to Box No. 3527.

**PLEASANTLY** attractive, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3528.

**PRETTY** lady in 100% leather. Reply to Box No. 3529.

**PROFESSIONAL** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3530.

**RAPUNZEL** (60+) divorced, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3531.

**REHABILITATION** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3532.

**SENSITIVE** attractive, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3533.

**SEPTEMBER** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3534.

**SLIGHTLY** interesting lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3535.

**TALL** attractive, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3536.

**WANTED** by presentable attractive lady. Reply to Box No. 3537.

**WIDELY** traveled lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3538.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3539.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3540.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3541.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3542.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3543.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3544.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3545.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3546.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3547.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3548.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3549.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3550.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3551.

## GENTLEMEN

**SMART**, caring, affectionate, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3525.

**SOUTH HANTS** slim blonde, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3526.

**SWIFT**, charming, 27 year old, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3527.

**THIS** blonde knows how to enjoy life, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3528.

**TRADE** Doreen, share success, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3529.

**TWO** successful business ladies, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3530.

**VERY** pretty, petite, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3531.

**WANTED** by presentable attractive lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3532.

**WIDELY** traveled lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3533.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3534.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3535.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3536.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3537.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3538.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3539.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3540.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3541.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3542.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3543.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3544.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3545.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3546.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3547.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3548.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3549.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3550.

**WITNESS** lady, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3551.

## SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3525.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3526.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3527.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3528.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3529.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3530.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3531.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3532.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3533.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3534.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3535.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3536.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3537.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3538.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3539.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3540.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3541.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3542.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3543.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3544.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3545.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3546.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3547.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3548.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3549.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3550.

**AMERICAN** 30, intelligent, successful. Reply to Box No. 3551.

**MEET SOMEONE THROUGH THE TIMES**

**Sara Eden**  
London  
0171 499 9626  
Windsor  
01753 830350  
"A stunning success rate... Countless long term relationships" Mail on Sunday

**SIRIUS**  
The Intelligent Person's Introduction Agency  
The Local service operating Nationwide for the intelligent, articulate and well educated  
Join the Largest agency with personal interviews and BS 6720  
24 hour information Freephone 0800 374451 brochure line  
Ask for your Free CD or Tape

**ABUNDANCE OF STUNNING LADIES - shortage of nice men!**  
DateLine  
"The UK's largest agency"  
For free details in absolute confidence: DateLine, 22 Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3DF  
Phone: 0171 371 5535

**Hedi Fisher**  
25 SUCCESSFUL YEARS  
PERSONAL - AFFORDABLE  
QUALITY INTRODUCTIONS - A.G.I.A. MEMBER  
110 Colindale Ave, London NW9 8HX  
0171 722 0744 day/0181 202 1768 eve/wk

**DINNER DATES**  
5th Chalk Hillway in Verder (Switzerland) 10 places left  
(chefs choice 4) for 50 single people  
Valentine's Party February 14th  
0281 741 2252 (London) 0181 658 9441 (S.E.)  
Est. 7 years As featured on BBC's Food & Drink 7,000 meals.  
Run by: Maida, Personality, Agency and Author Hilma Marshall.

**Perfect Harmony**  
Dinner Club  
For Single Business and Professional People. Join us at our Valentine's Night Dinner Party on the 14th February at the Sheraton Hotel, Belgrave, SW1 and make new friends of the opposite sex  
PHONE 01923 840441

**zygosis** the bringing together...  
THE PROFESSIONAL PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY  
Professional people often don't meet their ideal partner in their current social circle. That's where Zygosis can help. We are highly selective, operate nationally, are confidential, discreet and produce results. We look forward to your call.  
LONDON 0171 629 6979 GLASGOW 0141 849 8201 EDINBURGH 0131 556 5665  
YORKSHIRE 0113 245 8787 NORTH EAST 0191 261 2224 MIDLANDS 0990 143078  
NORTH WEST 01625 582800 SOUTH WEST 01225 688514 SOUTH EAST 01623 691200

**MUSIC LOVERS**  
Classical Partners  
As featured on BBC Radio 3 & in Classic FM Magazine. The greatest way to meet your kind of person... individually or as an individual musical ensemble. As a band you'll double your pleasure with someone to share your music with and you'll have a great time. We would advise readers and subscribers to contact us when giving out personal details. Your details will be held by us and used for our magazine only.  
Tel: 0181 943 0211 ext 0171 852626 even w/eeds

**Don't Join**  
an agency which has a reputation for being a British Introduction Agency. Agencies which are a member of the British Code of Practice which is supported by the Office of Fair Trading.  
For a free list of members call 0171 937 2800 or write to: ARIA, LONDON W8 6AT

**ASSIGNATIONS**  
Lesley Hudson-Jessop  
(ex Professional Headhunter)  
Offers personal, honest, interviews, as well as leading to tailor-made introductions  
WEST OF LONDON  
01225 482945

**KATHARINE ALLEN**  
Established 1980. Introduction Agency. The Times (1995) "Highly recommended" "Independent" "Made to measure" "5/5" "Telegraph" "Leading edge" "Best person" Client  
11 Thayer St, London W1M 5LD  
Tel: 0171 935 3115

**ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:**  
BOX No. ....  
c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD  
P.O. BOX 3553  
70, WHITE CHURCH LANE, LONDON, E1 9GA

**THE TIMES**  
cannot guarantee that you will receive any replies to your advertisement on this page. Although we hope that you will receive a number of replies, we cannot guarantee that it is advisable to meet in a public place. We would advise readers and subscribers to contact us when giving out personal details. Your details will be held by us and used for our magazine only.

**YOUR DETAILS**  
Initial Surname  
Address  
Post Code  
Telephone No.  
Please debit my credit card by £  
CREDIT CARD No.  
CREDIT CARD EXPIRY DATE

**YOUR VALENTINE'S DETAILS**  
Name  
Address  
Post Code  
Tick box if you would like to send a gift

**PhotoPartners**  
A new visual introduction agency for everyone... everywhere  
FREE MEMBERSHIP to the first 500 callers  
FreeCall 8500 824355 (Other) for Information Pack  
FREEPOST 88801, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL7 3ER

**PhotoPartners**  
A new visual introduction agency for everyone... everywhere  
FREE MEMBERSHIP to the first 500 callers  
FreeCall 8500 824355 (Other) for Information Pack  
FREEPOST 88

PROPERTY

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 481 1986 (TRADE) 0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE) FAX: 0171 782 7828 0171 782 7799

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BARGAIN! Repossession's and... BAYWATER W2, Garden 50... BAZZAZ PARK W3, beautiful 2...

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

DULWICH VILLAGE, 3/4 bed... BROAD GREEN W14, 2 bed... BROAD GREEN W14, 2 bed...

CITY OF LONDON

BARBICAN Third floor smaller... CLEVERLY W1C, 1 bed...

WEST END

PITNEY, W1, 2 bed flat... TAVISTOCK SQ, W1C, 2 studio...

NORFOLK

SOUTH WEST NORFOLK... Grade II, 4 bed village house...

AUCTIONS

BENSONS AUCTION... By Order of Mortgage... NORTH WEST 10th February...

FRANCE

NORMANDY Restored 16C... FULHAM E2, 2 bed, 2 bath... HAMPTHEAD NW2, 2 bedroom...

LONDON RENTALS

BATON PL SW7, 1st floor... KENSINGTON 3 bed, 2 bath... KENSINGTON 3 bed, 2 bath...

GRECE

PELOPONNESE... Traditional 5 year old architect... 2350,000

BALEARICS

IBIZA... Fully furnished, built with... 01625 398 508

CANARY ISLANDS

FRANCE... ALL FRANCE 'The Magazine'... ALPS Chablais Area...

HIGHGATE

HIGHGATE WEST HILL... Attractive 2 1/2 bedroom great...

BELGRAVIA

BELGRAVIA... Enter Palace. A Georgian style...

KENSINGTON

LADYBROOK SQ, W11... Newly... 01734 343364

SHURLOCK ROW

SHURLOCK ROW... Period semi-det 4 bedroom cottage...

COTSWOLDS

HOOK NORTON... Pretty Cotswold village between...

SURREY

ON KENT BORDER... Detached bungalow, 3 bedrooms...

SOUTH BRITANY

COSTA BLANCA... New 4 bed villa with 3 car...

SWITZERLAND

VALAIS / ISERABLES... New Villa, excellent for...

USA

FLORIDA HOMES... Orlando and...

RENTALS

WATFORD LANE 3 bed flat... CHELSEA CLOISTERS 2 bed...

LONDON RENTALS

AARON & LEWIS Estate Agents... WATFORD LANE 3 bed flat...

NOTTING HILL

NOTTING HILL... Bright spacious flat on 3 floors...

ELM PARK GARDENS

ELM PARK GARDENS... A large & spacious 1st floor flat...

CHELSEA

CHELSEA... Excellent 2nd floor flat in...

ST JAMES

ST JAMES... Prestigious Georgian apartment...

ESSEX

ESSEX... Country farmhouse circa 1700...

HAMPSHIRE

HAMPSHIRE... Modern 4 bed, 3 reception...

EMSWORTH

EMSWORTH... Yacht Club, transport...

KENT

KENT... CHARTHAM HATCH, Canterbury...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... GEORGIAN FARMHOUSE...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... Private Welsh Cottage...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... WILTSHIRE BORDERS...

TOAD HALL

TOAD HALL... Beautiful 3 bed houseboat...

CHELSEA

CHELSEA... Excellent 2nd floor flat in...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

KNIGHTSBRIDGE... LONDON SW1, Unmolested...

MAYFAIR

MAYFAIR... ST JAMES, Prestigious Georgian...

ESSEX

ESSEX... Country farmhouse circa 1700...

HAMPSHIRE

HAMPSHIRE... Modern 4 bed, 3 reception...

EMSWORTH

EMSWORTH... Yacht Club, transport...

KENT

KENT... CHARTHAM HATCH, Canterbury...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... GEORGIAN FARMHOUSE...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... Private Welsh Cottage...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... WILTSHIRE BORDERS...

GT PORTLAND ST W1

GT PORTLAND ST W1... Newly elegant refurbished 4th...

CHELSEA

CHELSEA... Excellent 2nd floor flat in...

ST JAMES

ST JAMES... Prestigious Georgian apartment...

ESSEX

ESSEX... Country farmhouse circa 1700...

HAMPSHIRE

HAMPSHIRE... Modern 4 bed, 3 reception...

EMSWORTH

EMSWORTH... Yacht Club, transport...

KENT

KENT... CHARTHAM HATCH, Canterbury...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... GEORGIAN FARMHOUSE...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... Private Welsh Cottage...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... WILTSHIRE BORDERS...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... WILTSHIRE BORDERS...

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

PUTNEY HEATH... A large private family house...

HAMPSTEAD

HAMPSTEAD... WEST HAMPTSTEAD, Excellent...

WEST END

WEST END... BLOOMSBURY, W1C, 2 bed...

NEW HOMES

NEW HOMES... REGENCY QUAY, Chiswick...

FINEST VIEW IN KENT

FINEST VIEW IN KENT... 4 bedroom house at Faversham...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... GEORGIAN FARMHOUSE...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... Private Welsh Cottage...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... WILTSHIRE BORDERS...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... WILTSHIRE BORDERS...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... WILTSHIRE BORDERS...

WILTSHIRE

WILTSHIRE... WILTSHIRE BORDERS...



THE RIGHT PLACE. THE RIGHT TIME.

There's never been a better time to make your move to a beautiful new Alfred McAlpine home. The combination of low interest rates and low house prices means that activity in the marketplace is definitely on the increase.

REGENCY QUAY, Chiswick 4 bedroom townhouses from £244,950 Sales Centre and Showhomes open daily 10am - 5pm Tel: 0181-742 7778

FINEST VIEW IN KENT 4 bedroom house at Faversham, 6 acres, superb views, 3 garages, outbuildings, stone block. £400,000

LANCASHIRE BLACKPOOL 6 holiday flats when owners accommodate. Over 1000 sq ft, £129,000

MIDDLESEX HAREFIELD Beautifully finished 400 sq ft 3 bed semi detached house...

DOCKLANDS ARTEMIS COURT - Cyclists Wharf E14. Top floor penthouse offering 2,700 sq ft of living space...

DOCKLANDS NEW CRANE WHARF E1. 2 bedroom duplex warehouse apartment set in heart of Wapping...

WILTSHIRE GEORGIAN FARMHOUSE 5 beds, 3 reception, office, 1000 sq ft, 1000 sq ft...

WILTSHIRE BORDERS 5 beds, 3 reception, 1000 sq ft, 1000 sq ft...

WILTSHIRE BORDERS 5 beds, 3 reception, 1000 sq ft, 1000 sq ft...

WILTSHIRE BORDERS 5 beds, 3 reception, 1000 sq ft, 1000 sq ft...

WILTSHIRE BORDERS 5 beds, 3 reception, 1000 sq ft, 1000 sq ft...

Table with columns: Location, Price, Features, etc. Includes entries for various properties like 'Retire in style', 'Retirement Homes', 'Country House', etc.

Advertisement for PRIME SHARE International Ltd, featuring a table of property listings and contact information. Includes the slogan 'Retire in style' and 'Retirement Homes'.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Winkworth' and 'RIVERSIDE PROPERTIES'.

# PROPERTY

### The not so bare necessities of ambassadorial life



Nice place, smart area, in-and-out drive — ambassadorial necessities in Courtenay Avenue, Highgate, north London, for sale at £1,450,000

## Diplomatic relations on millionaires' row

The estate agent's description of "ambassadorial residences" is becoming a London what "baronial hall" was to the country. Many substantial houses for sale in the capital are being deemed suitable dwellings for diplomats in the same way that rural properties were elevated to aristocratic status. But what constitutes an ambassadorial residence?

A fine place to start would be in Courtenay Avenue in Highgate, north London. The road runs parallel to what is said to be London's most expensive residential street, The Bishop's Avenue, the domain of the very rich, who occasionally let their jet-lagged heads there.

Courtenay Avenue has the benefit of being a cul-de-sac; no through traffic to the North Circular near ever disturb sleep or intrude on privacy. Admittedly, the avenue is second best, but it is not without its chandeliers.

Our example (above) is No 7, which is for sale at £1,450,000 through the agents Keith Cardale Groves. The house has five reception rooms, a Gothic chapel, extensive garden, four bedrooms, a guest suite, games room, staff flat and a large driveway. Impressive but why does the agent describe it as being "ambassadorial"?

Chris Underhill, the manager of KCG's Highgate office, says: "For a start, there are six or seven ambassadorial residences in the road. The house is presently occupied by a diplomat and the road is a low-profile and secure environment. Should there be an official function, temporary barriers can be erected to control access. And, of much importance to diplomats, it has an in-and-out driveway."

"The house is large enough to entertain at least 200 people. It's also near the centre of London, yet far enough north of Whitehall to hear the birds tweeting in the morning," says Mr Underhill.

There are many aspects, then, for a diplomat to consid-

er. Ambassadors have to have parties in properties that bring kudos, for which an ordinary semi or a public room in a hotel will not suffice.

But there are houses elsewhere that seem uncomfortable with their new role.

Last November, *The Times* Diary reported that residents in Kensington Court Gardens, southwest London, were miffed because the Belorussians had been granted planning permission to convert a house into an embassy, with an ambassadorial flat over the shop. Opposition came from, among others, Sir Ronald Arculus, a former British ambassador to Italy. Wishing to keep his part of Kensington as residential as possible, he complained that the embassy and residence would cause traffic congestion, a shortage of parking spaces, queues for visas and the occasional noisy demonstration. He lost his battle.

Holland Park, west London, is the latest to experience a new diplomatic invasion. The Uzbeks, Belarussians and Ukrainians are opening embassies and residences there, and some of their reluctant neighbours are displaying signs of nimbysism.

Others are less convinced that diplomatic neighbours are a problem. Willy Gething, who runs Property Vision, which buys houses in central London, says that such complaints "don't hold much sway". He speaks from personal experience. "I was near a number of residences and embassies when I was living in Holland Park," he says, "and I suspect that the local



£3.95 million would buy this house in Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood

Frank, gardens and in-and-out driveways are features that the ambassador must have. "Such attributes are particularly useful for really big functions," he says, "especially on the country's national day of celebration." But there are few properties of this sort within Mayfair and Belgravia that haven't already been snapped up by diplomats, and this is why so many official residences are starting to appear in areas such as St John's Wood and Highgate.

In St John's Wood, Knight Frank is offering a three-story house in tree-lined Hamilton Terrace at £3.95 million with an 89-year unexpired lease. The white stucco-fronted, detached, eight-bedroom house has a large, landscaped rear garden and plant room, separate staff flat, driveway, video entry and security system, but does lack spacious reception rooms.

For ambassadors on a more limited budget, Knight Frank is offering a freehold house in Highgate with seven bedrooms, an in-and-out driveway and a 124ft garden at £1.4 million.

Those with a large house to sell in central London may be tempted to believe that theirs could be described as "ambassadorial". And they could be right. Brian D'Arcy Clark, of the agents Chesterfield, stipulates that: "Much of the accommodation can be modest, but the reception rooms have to be large. The space can vary from 3,000sq ft to 10,000sq ft. Freehold is preferred, and the property has to be in good condition, or requiring only a few minor alterations."

Falling that, if you have a little place tucked away in the Home Counties, why not put it up for sale as a "consular cottage"? Even diplomats need weekends away.

**GUY WALTERS**  
 Keith Cardale Groves, 021-341 6666, Property Vision, 01743 23 2338; Knight Frank, north London, 071-431 8656; Mayfair, 071-629 8171; Chesterfield, 071-581 5234.

**On Wednesday**  
 Dreamy places to say 'I do': Rachel Kelly on where to have a romantic wedding

**FOR SALE**

**SMART SEMIS**

**DEVON**  
 Rambler Cottage, Inner Hope, Hope Cove. Semi-detached detached cottage in the square at Inner Hope, with sea views. Three bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, kitchen/breakfast room (with exposed beams and inglenook fireplace). About £114,500 (Fulford, 01548 843731).

**LONDON (below)**  
 5 Essex Villas, W8. Victorian semi-detached house with garden on the Phillimore Estate, close to Kensington High Street. Six bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), dressing room, child's study, en suite shower-room, two cloakrooms, drawing room, library, dining room, kitchen, utility room and kitchenette. About £1,675,000 for a 69-year lease (John D. Wood, 0171-727 0705).

**GLoucestershire (above)**  
 38 Priory Street, Cheltenham. Semi-detached Regency house with garden. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, two shower-rooms, two cloakrooms, two reception rooms, billiard room, kitchen and storage vault. About £150,000 (Hamptons, 01242 222908).

CHERYL TAYLOR

# PROPERTY

**Martin Grant Homes**

**BERRKS HIRE**  
 KENT POLLY WARFIELD NEAR BRACKNELL  
 4 bed homes from £14,950 - 5 bed homes from £28,900 TEL: 01344 857878  
 WICKENBURG NEAR BRACKNELL  
 4 bed homes from £18,950 - £189,950 TEL: 01344 857878

**WEST SUSSEX**  
 BRIMWOOD CRAWLEY  
 Last 4 bed home price £124,950 TEL: 01293 215444  
 WILD ACRE FOLD NEAR CHANLEIGH  
 5 bed homes from £22,000 TEL: 01483 288222  
 COCKFIELD  
 4 bed homes from £149,950 TEL: 01149 415577  
 PRIORY FIELDS BONGROVE CHICHESTER  
 3, 4 & 5 bed homes. 1st release of 4 & 5 bed homes from £157,500 TEL: 01252 822066

**KENT**  
 SERPENTINE PLACE SEVENOAKS  
 2 & 3 bed homes from £114,950 - £182,950 TEL: 01123 741212

**DORSET**  
 OASIS BOURNEMOUTH  
 2 bed apts from £72,950 TEL: 01202 767633

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**  
 Berkshire, Bradford Park, Bradford  
 4 bed homes. TEL: 01306 739822

**LONDON**  
 LONDON TURKIE HILL SE24  
 3 bed terrace homes from £28,950 TEL: 0181 761 1737

**HERTFORDSHIRE**  
 HOLLYBUSH CRESCENT HARPENDEN  
 2 & 3 bed homes. Prices from £89,950 TEL: 01582 712219

**CAMBRIDGE SHIRE**  
 MILL CLOSE HESTON  
 Just one 3 bed bungalow Price £82,950 TEL: 01223 88377

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**  
 PARLARDS WICKON KEYNES  
 4 bed homes, 2 bed bungalows from £36,000 - £241,950 TEL: 01508 679188

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**  
 CAVENISH PARK NORTHAMPTON  
 3 & 4 bed homes from £82,950 - £114,950 TEL: 01604 259110

**ESSEX**  
 CHURCH GATE GARDENS OLD HARLOW  
 Just one 3 bed home. Price £39,950 TEL: 01279 626117

**OXFORDSHIRE**  
 TEMPLE HEIGHTS OXFORD  
 1 & 2 bed apts, 2, 3 & 4 bed homes from £35,995 TEL: 01865 395473

**BEDFORDSHIRE**  
 THE SYCAMORES BARTON LE CLAY  
 4 bed homes from £136,000 TEL: 01582 883217

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**  
 Herts, Gloucestershire, Bedford  
 3 & 4 bed homes. TEL: 01727 884044

FREEPHONE CALLS  
**0500 730 722**

FREEPHONE CALLS  
**0500 730 733**

SHOEHOME OPEN 10AM - 5PM DAILY  
 Martin Grant Homes  
 SHOEHOME OPEN 10AM - 4PM SAT & SUN

**ALL THE BEAMS ARE ORIGINAL. OF COURSE...**

**AND YOU CAN STILL SEE THE WATTLE AND DAUB IN THE WALLS?**

**SO MUCH SPACE, SO MUCH CHARACTER! THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF A BARN CONVERSION!**

**ER...JUST A TECHNICAL POINT. HAS THIS ONE BEEN CONVERTED YET?**

*© Tony Wilkinson 1996*

markvale

EMERGENCY

ESHAARE

ATE SALES

sh field be im: ap- an for ret- on. in uid ing

ney rst hat cy. in and in- no. ted as ut" m rek he

an er- m- a- ly: Do: m- es- rs- te. i- to re- ut no ed id ne- is, is

th la ch ut n u j l is

FA 4 5 S A 6

Quick and the dread

RUDE GIRLS By Vanessa Walters Pan, £3.50

VANESSA WALTERS is a sassy-looking, black, 18-year-old author from north London who is already at work on her second novel. To judge from her debut, Rude Girls, it too will be tightly plotted, with a good ear for dialogue, a slightly enervating propensity to list every item of clothing her heroines are wearing and a moral-happy denouement five pages from the end.

Things move along with enough bounce and vigour to satisfy the teenage readers this is aimed at - Yardie's daughter Shree, single mum Paula and upwardly-mobile Janice have been best friends "since the beginning of time" and look for relief from the white-out oven of London summer in all-day festivals and endless mutual hair-dressing sessions. Things start to go pear-shaped when Shree's dad shoots a business associate in the middle of a drug deal and the three girls are bound up in a revenge attack.



Walters: bounce and vigour

Further pressure is put on the friendship by Shree's lust for a dodgy Yardie who always turns up at the most inopportune times in a large black Mercedes and "accidentally" snogs her just as the plot needs a fight or an argument. Meanwhile, Paula forges more independence from her domineering mother and Janice has a run-in with a smarmy yuppie in the throes of denying his blackness.

While Walters displays unerring enthusiasm and a healthy disrespect for her male characters, her failings are all too apparent by the third chapter, stolid storytelling unredeemed by those bursts of imagination and prose that mark out the truly gifted from the merely talented. Still, should her career as a novelist fail to take off, she has some interesting ideas about coiffure and should do well as a hairdresser.

CAITLIN MORAN

A member of the NCR Book Award panel, Andrew Roberts is confident of avoiding the acrimony that has dogged other prizes

A most gentlemanly jury

When my car was stolen last December, driven to Stoke Newington and completely stripped, the thieves left only three articles: my green wellies, my wife's classical tapes and The Architecture of Southern England by John Julius Norwich. Perhaps they already had a copy.

If so, may I recommend to them another of Lord Norwich's works, Byzantium: The Decline and Fall, the third and final part of his great trilogy. It has been submitted, along with 144 other works of history, biography, travel and non-fiction for the NCR Book Award, of which I am one of the five judges.

When the judges met for the first time at AT&T's headquarters on the Marylebone Road in London just before Christmas, Jeremy Paxman, our chairman, set out a few, very

welcome, ground rules. We were not expected to read all 145 books but should each take away the 20 or so which most interested us. The prospect of being forced, for the first time since Eng Lit A level, to read all of a book I did not necessarily like therefore receded. Next month we will read each other's three or four favourites to create a shortlist. Our last meeting, to choose the winner, takes place in the hour or so before a huge dinner at the Dorchester on May 22.

The other ground rules - that we would not take into account how rich the winner is before awarding the £25,000 tax-free cheque, or

consider what other awards he or she might have won or narrowly missed - were also agreed on quickly. My whispered question about the ethics of taking away some books to give as presents to family and friends was answered by a magisterial wave of Paxman's hand. "Treat it like Christmas shopping without the money."

Under the aegis of the formidable Doti Irving, who has run the prize (formerly and henceforth called the NCR Book Award) for a decade, we finished quickly and left.

Whatever advertising executives may say to the contrary, I do not believe we remember advertise-

ments in newspapers. So literary awards do work in bringing the name of a company to public attention. For the price of two or three full-page advertisements in the national newspapers, AT&T can organise and pay for an award which will get its name into the all-important editorial as opposed to just the advertising pages.

The winner gets a large cheque, the runners-up receive £3,000 each, the judges also receive a modest fee for their half-year readathon, the company gets free advertising into diary stories and columns like this, the public gets the fruit of our deliberations and the literary world

gets fed at a grand dinner. Book awards are thus proof that sometimes capitalism can benefit everyone.

Having met the other judges - Cristina Odone, Nick Hornby and Sue Butterworth - I suspect I shall soon be feeling like the shrivelled and embarrassed little man in the Bateman cartoon at whom everyone in the cocktail party is staring and pointing. The caption shall read: "The man who served on an uncontroversial book award." I simply cannot see the five of us yelling or intriguing or playing the martyr when it comes to making our choices.

The Booker and Whitbread seem almost designed for these rows, with Julian Critchley and Rachel Cusk dashing off into print the moment the choice is made. Geordie Greig, book editor of The Sunday Times, has recently called into question the entire basis of the Whitbread selection process. Last year's AT&T, chaired by Alan Clark, which controversially plumped for a dismal autobiography rather than Juliet Baker's much-tipped and brilliant life of the Brontë family, was no exception. I predict this year the NCR award will be professional, dignified, serious, harmonious if not unanimous, and therefore instantly forgettable in the great saga of book prize rows.

Andrew Roberts's novel The Aachen Memorandum is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Jan Morris is captivated by a new, definitive guide to the City of Light that is good enough to eat

WE LIVE in the heyday of the guidebook - just as we live in the heyday of travel. True, the guidebook as a work of literature seems to be a dead notion: no Richard Fords are telling us what to expect of Valenciennes ("perfidious, vindictive and empty of all good"); no E. M. Forsters are advising us how best to look at Alexandria ("wander aimlessly around the city").

In every other kind, though, the genre flourishes as never before. We have guides for the rich and guides for the indigent, for the cruise buff and the backpacker, for gays and for senior citizens. We have architectural guides more brilliant and informative than ever, and we even have solid, old-fashioned academic guidebooks, not perhaps as pithy as the old Murrays and Baedekers, but still written by scholars for serious travellers.

This week sees the publication of what one might call the flagship of this immense and wildly assorted fleet. A few years ago Gallimard, the venerable Paris publisher, launched yet another new kind of guide, intended to be more permanent, more sumptuous and more seductive than any. In England the series was adopted and adapted by Everyman Books. French in style and inspiration the series remains, nevertheless, and so it is proper that it reaches a climax now in the publication of the Everyman Guide to Paris, one of the most alluring guidebooks ever published.

As a souvenir of a visit somewhere, or as a book to read in bed at the end of the long day's tourism, the Everymans are unbeatable. They

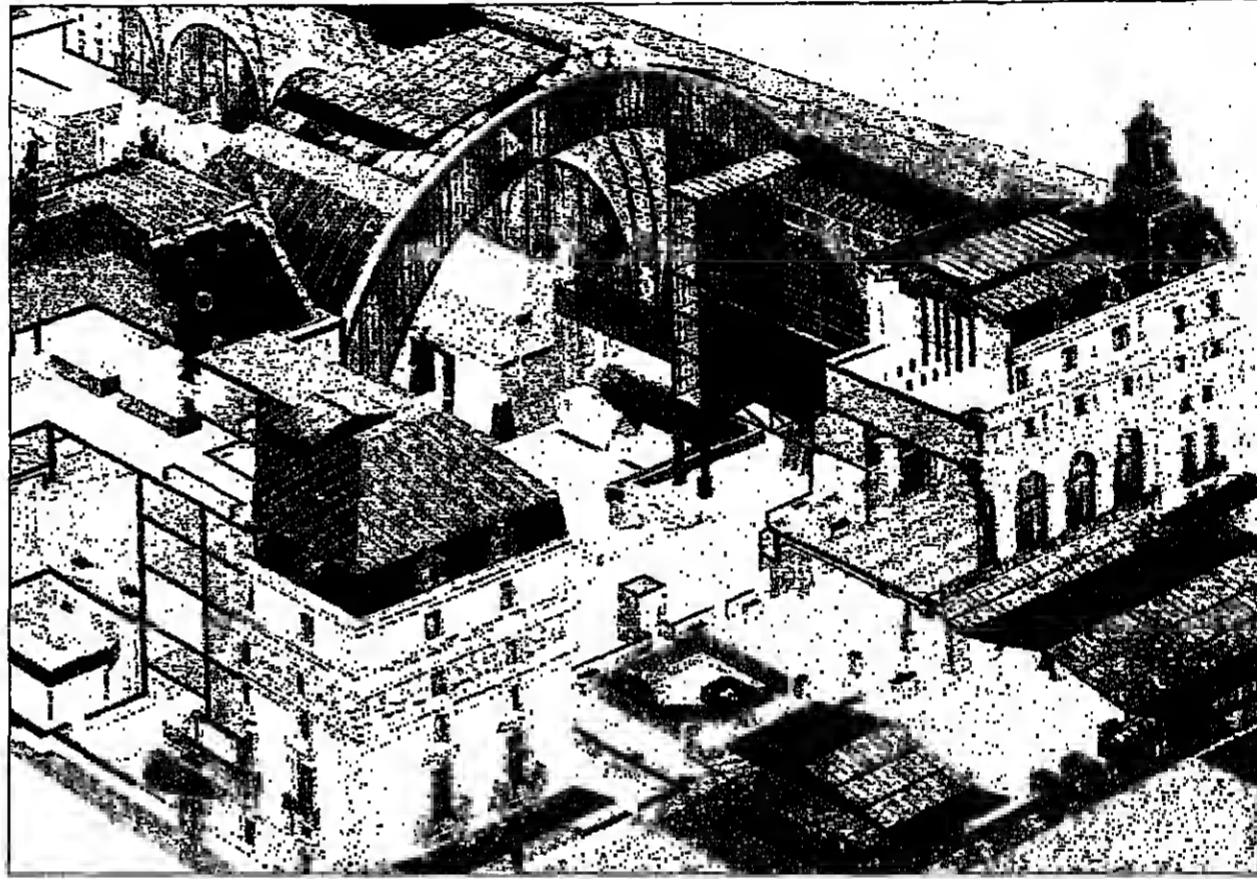
EVERYMAN GUIDE TO PARIS Everyman, £16.99

look lovely. They are elegantly printed on rich, shiny paper. They are virtuous examples of the designer's and cartographer's craft, and they assume an adult interest in every aspect of a place.

Not all the Everymans concern cities - some are about countries or regions, and there is one about Parisian restaurants - but they are best suited to the discussion of a metropolis, and though Paris is by no means my favourite city, the Everyman Paris is as good an example of the series as any. It feels and smells so good that, rather than spend a small fortune on some hyped-up entrée in a conceited Paris restaurant, I would eat it.

The range of the book is astonishing. I am not surprised that more than 200 advisers, authors, researchers, illustrators, designers and photographers are acknowledged at the front. It contains hundreds of architectural drawings and cutaways, from Roman Lutetia to La Défense. It discusses and illustrates street furniture, haute couture, gardens, wildlife, museums, women, department stores, the Seine and, of course, cuisine. There is a lovely portfolio of paintings by the great painters of the city. There is an anthology of quotations from writers as varied as Boswell, Joyce, Alice B. Toklas and Evelyn Waugh.

And there are also, though less satisfactorily, the conventional registers of a city guidebook: city walks delineated monument by monument,



Inside story: cutaway illustration showing the structure of the Musée d'Orsay, from the Everyman Guide to Paris

lists of shops, hotels, restaurants ("not the place for a casual tourist, but for people who really understand food, such as the sophisticated Parisians who... came to taste the carpaccio of langoustines with caviare" (ugh)). The whole work is strewn with maps and glorious illustrations, and would make old Mr Baedeker, or John Murray, Esquire, turn in their graves with envy - or embarrassment.

For there is something a little embarrassing about these marvellous examples of bibliotechnique. They are a little over-marvellous. They never let up. Intended as the very latest thing, they end up by being rather fin-de-siècle - like langoustines with caviare. But these are the quibbles of a Welsh ascot. If you love Paris, you will doubtless love this book, not as a transient aid to sightseeing or gourmandism, but as a reference book of great beauty and lasting fascination.

I am collecting all the Everyman city books, against the time when I can travel no more, and they will come and sit with me beside the fire and be my memory's guide.

Travel, pages 18 and 19

Very heaven not to be young

LOOE THE DEMON IN THE EYE: The Challenge of Mid-Life By Angela Neustatter Michael Joseph, £17.99

IT IS said that the fashion designer Calvin Klein, when playing a word-association game and hearing the word "young" immediately snapped "forever". This would not endear him to Angela Neustatter, who believes in accepting the loss of youth without demur.

Do not be put off her book by its subtitle, which contains two of the most off-putting words in the English language: challenge and mid-life. Neustatter is a mite earnest but she writes engagingly and you end up feeling better about middle age, as I insist on calling it, than you did before.

Neustatter sees the time when children have grown up, partnerships have faded into the kumdrum and career prospects are dwindling as a period when kicking over the traces might be permissible. Among her 150 interviewees are several who walked out on their commitments. A few of them howl regret but, what the hell, it added to their personal growth. And most of them are happy that they listened to their body clock and were brave enough to make enormous changes at almost the last minute.

Neustatter does not underestimate the problems of the middle years - the possible loss of love, libido and looks - as well as hurtful invisibility in the eye of the world that comes with the first grey hair. But she gracefully sniffs out signs of the changing times: more job opportunities for the middle-aged because there are fewer young people; more notice taken of them by advertisers, not because they have suddenly fallen for mature allure but because of the dizzying statistic that the over-fifties "probably own about 80 per cent of all the wealth in Britain". An example of this changed approach is that the supermarket chain that hired Lesley Joseph in her role of Dorian (the nymphomaniac of a certain age in the television sitcom Birds of a Feather) to star in its commercials saw sales zip through the roof.

Neustatter has sensible things to say about preparing for retirement - although some of them sound alarmingly hearty. She does not try to convince fiftysomethings that the best is yet to come but suggests the possibility of growing old without feeling that even one toe is already in the grave.

PENNY PERRICK

AUDIOBOOKS Eye on the ball

CLOUGH THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY Written and read by Brian Clough Corgi Audio, £8.99 (3 hours) BRIAN CLOUGH has a good story to tell, though he stumbles over his words. He is a working-class hero, a gifted forward, a dedicated football team manager, and he never suffers a single moment's self-doubt. One cannot help feeling that English soccer would have been infinitely more fun if Cloughie had run our national team for a spell.

when he died, there was an outpouring of national affection for him. This collection of his journalism since 1980 celebrates his wide interests, from history to marmalade, from religious belief to life up North and retirement. His erstwhile colleagues from Today read his work attentively, sometimes reverently.

MISSING JOSEPH By Elizabeth George read by Derek Jacobi Corgi Audio, £8.99 (3 hours) AN unchallenging murder mystery starts with a meeting between a vicar and Deborah St James in front of the Leonardo cartoon of the Virgin and Child at the National Gallery. They both wonder: where's Joseph? When Deborah and her husband visit the vicar, they find he is dead. Hints of witchcraft, violent sex and police corruption flash out the Rendell-style mixture.

RUSSELL TWISK

CHART WATCH

THIS week, Peter Hoeg's Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow notches up one year in the paperback chart. Briefly nudged out by the Penguin and Phoenix 60p volumes, it has now clocked up the full 52 weeks. Good going for a novel whose success owes much to word of mouth but whose author's name is unpronounceable to all but his fellow Danes. The nearest contender is Sebastian Faulks's elegant war novel, Birdsong, with 45 weeks.

Meanwhile, Irvine Welsh's Trainspotting and Acid House showing strongly. The end of the festive season is firmly signalled by the arrival of Rosemary Conley's Complete Flat Stomach Plan at No.17, and the end of the festive hangover by the reappearance, at No.16, of Malcolm Gluck's Superplonk 96.

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

Table with columns: Title, Author, Price, Last week, No. weeks. Includes titles like 'Cross Channel', 'Delia Smith's Winter Collection', 'The Road Ahead', 'The Moor's Last Sigh', 'Immediate Action', 'Enigma', 'Elizabeth', 'Emotional Intelligence', 'X-Files Book of the Unexplained', 'Snow Falling on Cedars', 'The Rainmaker', 'The State We're In', 'Behind the Scenes at the Museum', 'Trainspotting', 'Regeneration', 'The Juror', 'Free to Trade', 'Writing Home', 'The Eye in the Door', 'Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow', 'Birdsong', 'Borrowed Time', 'The Sheep-Pig', 'Superplonk 96', 'Complete Flat Stomach Plan', 'Acid House', 'A Guide to Happiness', 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin'.

THURSDAY

John Bayley on the mysteries of English grammar and Richard Dawkins on Carl Sagan

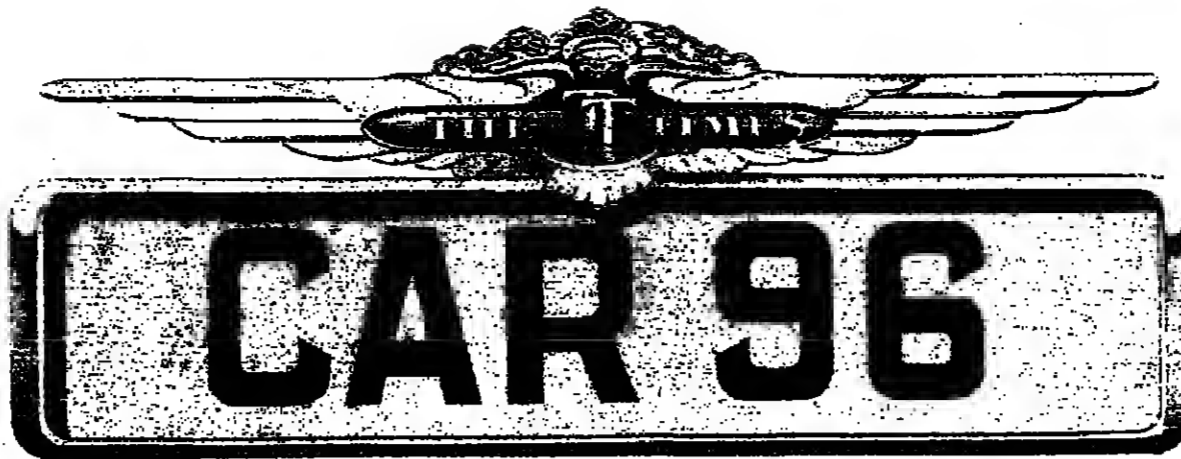
THIS WEEK'S TIMES AND BARCLAYS PREMIER OFFER TWO FOR ONE ADMISSION TO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES. Includes details for Diaghilev, National Museum of Photography, and various galleries. Barcode and 'THE TIMES' logo at the bottom.

When is a shop not a shop? Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money. Includes a large question mark icon and Dillons logo.



Wrap up warm and drive to the limit of taste

Page 10



How new exhaust tests have plunged into chaos

Page 2



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 1996

# My unforgettable One for the road

**Tony Dodgins,**  
Grand Prix editor  
of *F1 Racing*,  
discovers what  
F1 reality is like  
behind the wheel

**T**yrrell's regular driver, Mika Salo, paced about like some expectant father. He was worried about "his baby" having all its limbs.

The Finnish Formula One ace had been smart enough to negotiate one of the 1995 cars for keeps at the end of its useful life — a moment that was seemingly fast approaching. The car was out there on a drenched Barcelona track in the hands of a journalist whose racing experience amounted to a season of endurance Pro Karting.

Now, Pros weigh around 100 kilos and are powered by two 5.5bhp Honda generator motors; a Tyrrell-Yamaha 023 weighs 500 kilos and has a monstrous 700bhp. A power-to-weight ratio roughly 13 times as great.

Cross, mindless stupidity or simply extreme folly? Could a mere mortal handle it? A man more used to climbing into a Sierra 4x4. A man whose painstaking preparation amounted to five laps of Barcelona in a Citroën Xantia Turbo Diesel the day before ... in the dark?

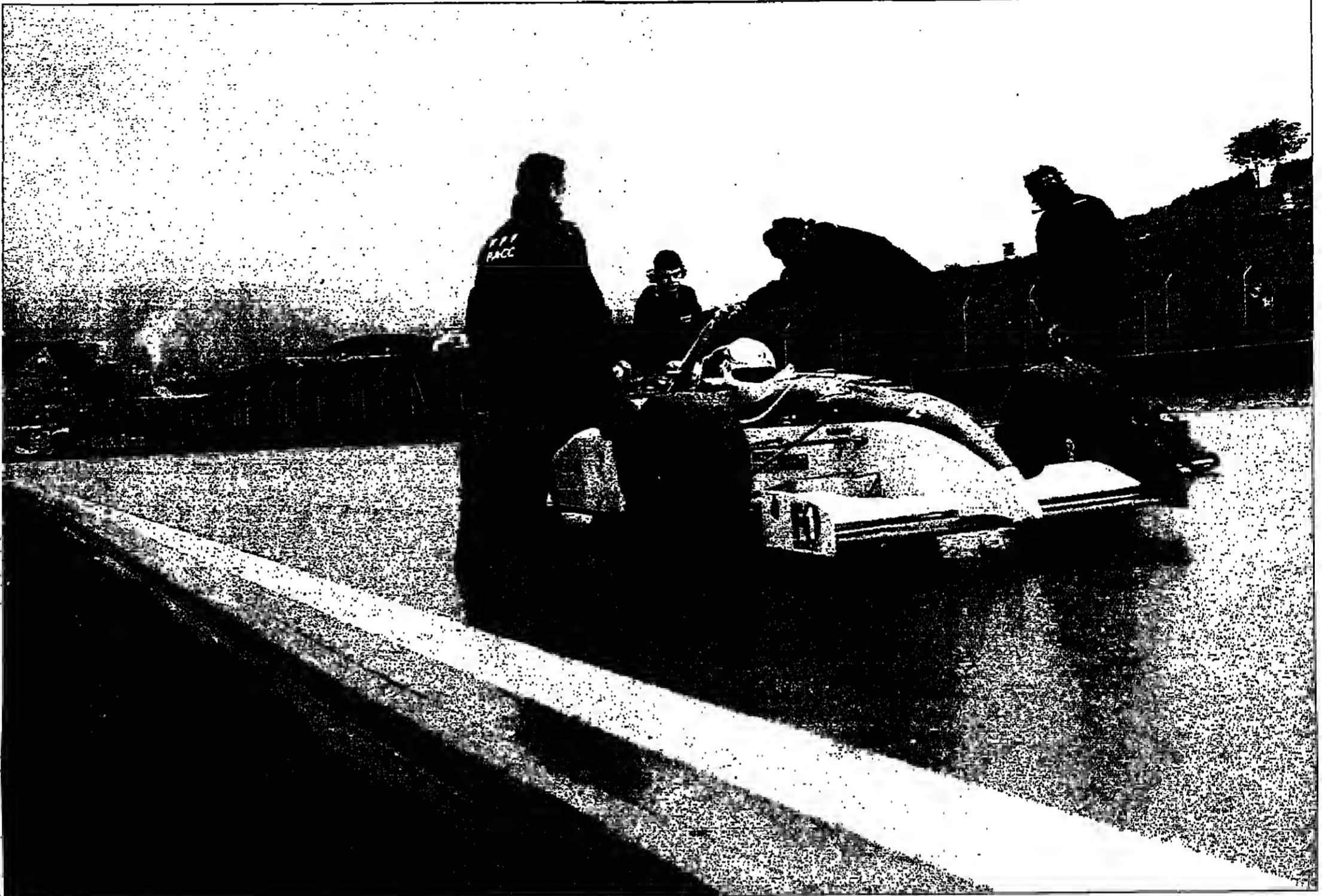
**K**en Tyrrell will be 72 on May 3. It is 27 years since his team won the first of three world championships with Jackie Stewart. He's seen it all. Still, he wanted to see this. When I pointed out we shared a birthday, a broad grin lit up the craggy features. "I just hope you're going to see a few more ..."

My previous record was not good. I'd piled up a Formula Ford and destroyed someone else's Lotus Cordua at Silverstone. "Have you any idea what you are letting yourself in for?" Tyrrell wanted to know. "The deal is this: we will insure the car and you will insure yourself. If a tyre goes down and you kill yourself — tough. We are not responsible."

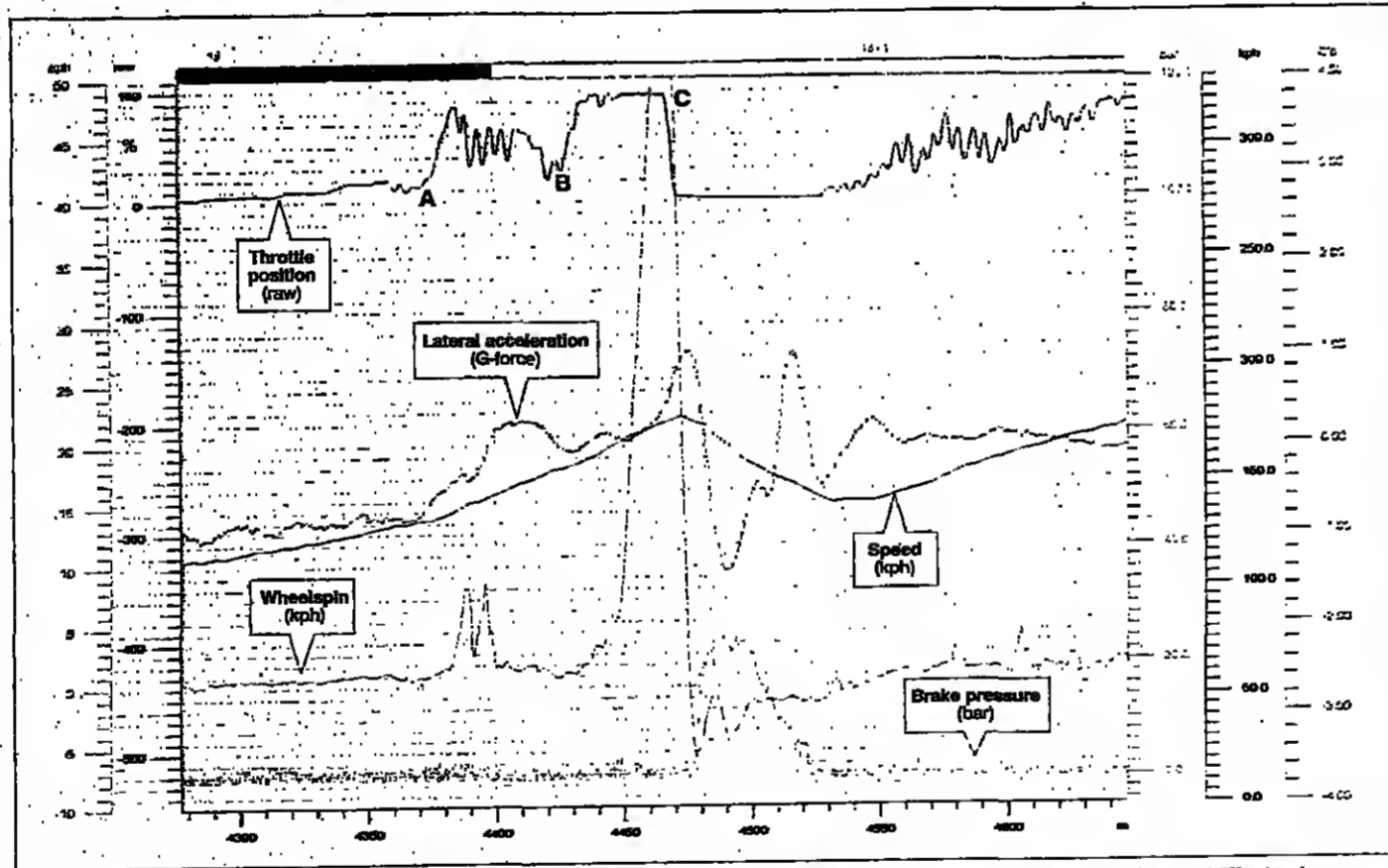
"You've got him worried already," laughed managing director and technical boffin Harvey Postlethwaite as he scribbled in huge letters on a sticky memo pad which was then slapped on to my Filofax. RH-UP; LH-DOWN. It referred to gear shifting with the Tyrrell's steering mounted paddles — up the box with the right hand and down with the left. "Look at that every day between now and the time you drive our car."

The day arrived. I might be roughly the same height as Salo, but there it ended. Long body and short legs meant another 4cms on the crunch straps. Long indulgence and short exercise spelled another 6cms on the lay strap. But the pedal positions felt near perfect. I would only use the clutch to leave the pits, then forget its existence. However ...

What you don't need with 700bhp is rain — but it was



The Tyrrell crew prepare Dodgins for a journey round the Barcelona track with the warning, "We will insure the car and you will insure yourself. If a tyre goes down and you kill yourself — tough. We are not responsible"



Graph shows throttle position (percentage), side force (Gs), speed (kph), wheelspin (kph) and brake pressure (1 bar = 14.5lbs/sq in approx). Circuit map shows area of incident

## WHOOPS... THIS IS HOW IT ALL WENT WRONG

**YOU'RE NEVER** alone in a Formula One car. Every move made by the driver and every effect on the car is monitored by sensors and stored in an onboard computer, writes *Alan Cogg*. During a race, this "telemetry" is transmitted live to the pit engineers. The graph on the left is an extract from the data for Tony Dodgins's last lap and shows what happened when he momentarily lost control. Harvey Postlethwaite, Tyrrell's technical director, gave the explanation.

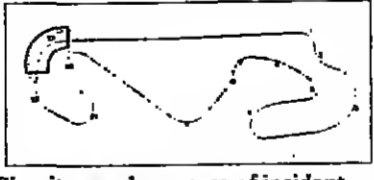
On the top border, green denotes the curve, white the straight. The scale at the bottom is the lap distance; our story starts at 4.280 kilometres. It spans the distance marked on the circuit map below. The top black line shows the throttle position. It is trailing close to zero as the car comes out of the corner at about 125kph (77mph), a speed denoted by the second black line.

At point A, Dodgins puts his foot down. The effect is seen on the blue line which shows the G forces on the driver:

a reading below zero is a force to the right, above to the left. From a steady level close to 1G to the right in the corner, there is a quick shift to the left. The green line indicates wheelspin. The kph scale on the left shows the difference between the speed of rotation of the rear powered wheels and that of the front wheels. That first prod on the throttle sets the rear wheels spinning 7kph faster.

The throttle then bounces as Dodgins tries to let the car settle and a moment later, at point B, he presses the throttle to the floor. With 700bhp blasting through the rear wheels, but little adhesion, the wheelspin goes off the graph. The speed rises to a peak close to 180kph (112mph) and the blue line indicates a further shift to the left.

At point C, Dodgins lifts his foot, the right thing to do, but so violently that the wheels lock. The throttle responds instantly and the wheelspin line shows the front wheels turning faster. But the red line for brake pressure then shows him doing, in Postlethwaite's words "absolutely the wrong thing". A stab on the brake sends the car's rear end slewing to the left, then to the right. The snap is repeated before he takes his foot off everything and gingerly resumes progress along the straight. In Postlethwaite's words: "The conditions were infernal. It was a good effort to get that car back."



Continued on page 2

## Forget when it was built. Consider who built it.



Mercedes-Benz  
Used Cars

For more information, call 0800 010107



sh  
id  
he  
re  
up  
on  
er  
re  
in  
id  
ng  
  
ey  
st  
at  
3:  
as  
td  
n-  
so  
cd  
as  
it  
rn  
ek  
he  
  
m  
r-  
m  
se  
a  
ly  
Jo  
rs  
m  
s-  
rs  
e.  
  
to  
e-  
it  
td  
id  
e-  
is  
s.  
ke  
  
h  
a  
h  
it  
n  
u  
l  
e  
s  
  
h  
A  
s  
s  
e  
t

Department of Transport tells thousands of centres to suspend 'cat' checks. Vaughan Freeman reports

# Conflicting results bring chaos to new MoT pollution test

The new MoT test introduced last month to target emissions on three-year-old cars fitted with catalytic converters is degenerating into a chaotic mess as drivers and motoring organisations report widespread discrepancies in test results.

This week the Department of Transport contacted 18,000 MoT testing stations telling them to temporarily suspend the emissions aspect of the test on thousands of K-registered cars. The moratorium will last from six to eight weeks while limits for the emissions test are revised after fresh talks with manufacturers.

The problem says the department is that information supplied originally by manufacturers as to the minimum emissions limits that regularly serviced cars would pass proved hopelessly optimistic. As a result thousands of cars registered for the first time on or after August 1 1992, are unexpectedly failing, even if their catalysis are in perfect order.

A spokesman said: "It is vital that motorists with K-registered

cars know that their cars must have an MoT. To drive without one is illegal and will almost certainly invalidate their insurance." He added though that cars that go through the E2 MoT and are passed without having their emissions tested will nevertheless be road legal until their next MoT next year.

The test discrepancies mean that emissions element of the MoT has been suspended for all K-reg catalytic-fitted Daihatsu, Ford, HMS Sports cars, Isuzu, Mazda RX7, Porsche, Proton, Rover, Subaru and TVR models, and for some Alfa Romeo, Aston Martin, Caterham, Fiat, Lada, Lancia and Mercedes-Benz models.

AA head of research and materials testing, John Stubbs, said: "We need this moratorium since clearly it would be unfortunate to take vehicles off the road. That is not the solution."

The AA is also concerned that the confusion over the emissions element of the MoT could undermine confidence in the whole test procedure, of which exhaust emis-

sions are only a small part. And that is not the only problem facing the new MoT, which introduced tough new emissions standards for catalytic-fitted cars individually tailored to each model and make according to manufacturer's data. There are already cases of the same car failing the test on emissions at one MoT centre only to pass it at another.

Businessman Frank Benzin was stunned when his 1.4 litre Renault 19, first registered exactly three years ago, failed its first MoT at his local Renault dealership because of poor emissions. He instantly sought a second opinion and, half an hour later, without anyone having touched the car's engine, it passed at another garage without any difficulties.

The car, with 72,000 miles on the clock, has been regularly serviced and Mr Benzin, manager of the Cornhill Printing Press company in South Devon, said that when he took it for an MoT he was totally confident it would pass. For it to fail, and then pass elsewhere he said, showed that the new emis-



Frank Benzin: "I couldn't believe it when it failed. So I went to another garage within half an hour and it passed with a different readout"

sions element of the examination was in total disarray.

"I was sure the car would pass the MoT and couldn't believe it when it failed," he said. "So I went round the corner to another garage within half an hour and it passed with a completely different readout."

"Nationally a lot of people are going through the same problem, going to a garage where the emissions from their cars are being incorrectly measured, and as a result could be facing bills for a new catalytic converter of £200 to £500 and be really out of pocket.

"If motorists, like me, seek a second opinion, they could save themselves that money. The system, which is being introduced nationally, is clearly not 100 per cent accurate."

The trouble is that you have a computer telling the mechanic that the car has failed and he or she has to go on that, but computers cannot be 100 per cent accurate unless every detail of the procedure is followed precisely, and every garage must use the same technology. I am afraid that is not the case.

"I think it is outrageous, and enough is enough. It doesn't look as if those in office have done their homework on this. I am all for clean air, but my experience shows the system isn't working."

This year around 1.5 million K-registered catalytic-fitted cars registered on or after August 1 1992 will go through the new MoT, and initial estimates were that up to 20 per cent — as many as 300,000 — would fail because their catalytic converter is broken, damaged, or is otherwise not working properly. Bills would average £200-£400, but with a Rolls-Royce it could cost

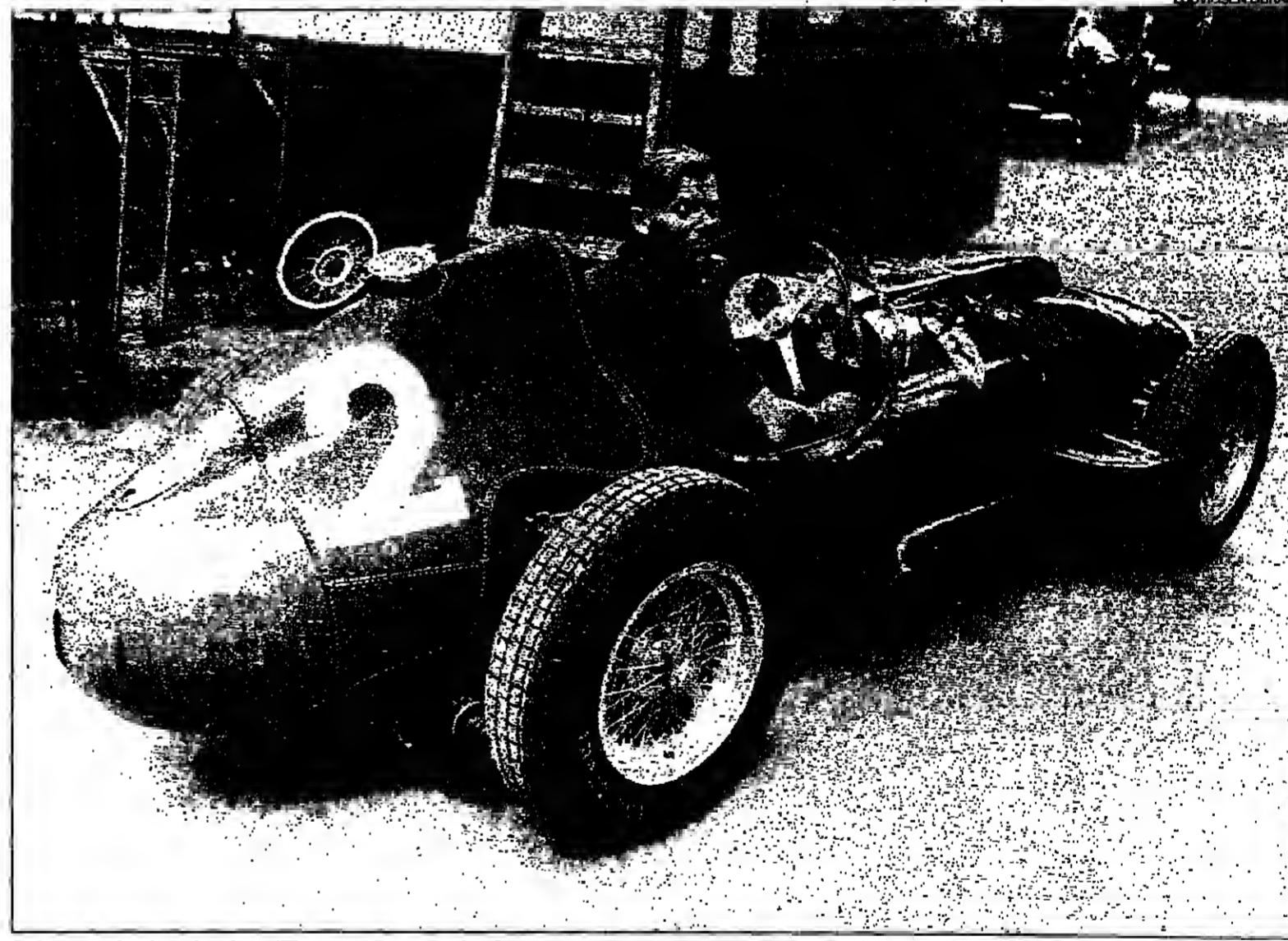
as much as £1,700 for a replacement catalyst unit.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation's own estimation is that the failure rate because of emissions for cat-fitted cars will be between 16 and 20 per cent, and that 150,000 motorists will need replacement converters and another 150,000 will need remedial work.

Catalysts remove approximately 90 per cent of the three worst exhaust fume pollutants — carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, which are major contributors to acid rain and smog.

# Motor racing, past, present and future

● PAUL FRERE is one of the sages of motor sport. He won Le Mans in 1960 in a Ferrari with fellow-Belgian Olivier Gendebien. After competing in sports and Formula One racing for Ferrari, Aston Martin, Porsche and Cooper he wrote one of the first text books on competition driving. He has been in the business of writing about cars ever since his enthusiasm undimmed at the age of 79. As the Formula One circus prepares for a new season that starts in Melbourne on March 10, he talks to Peter Miller about World Champion Michael Schumacher's move to Ferrari, Dutton Hill's driving style and other topics. His tip for the driver's championship: Schumacher again.



Paul Frere in his racing days: "The sport cannot survive through television audiences alone. It needs a live crowd — then it becomes real show business"

Q: Can Schumacher do a hat-trick in 1996?  
A: There might be reliability problems early on with a brand new Ferrari and engine. But by mid-season in Canada I expect the car to be fully raceworthy. He will have to win several races after Montreal to clinch the title.

Q: Will you compare Schumacher with Ayrton Senna?  
A: Entirely different characters, but both very professional and with their lives utterly concentrated on motor racing. That combination produces world champions.

Q: How will Eddie Irvine relate with Schumacher at Ferrari?  
A: Again, two opposing personalities — the dedicated champion paired with a more relaxed Ulsterman with numerous interests outside racing. Irvine will learn from Schumacher's ability to analyse the car's performance accurately and provide the specific information needed to set up his car for maximum efficiency.

Q: Is Damon Hill an artisan-type driver like his father, Graham?  
A: Yes, Graham and Damon are identical drivers. Damon is not as naturally gifted as Michael, but, thanks to his concentration and will to win he is a top class driver. I don't think he got the same help from his team as Schumacher. Benetton trusted Schumacher's judgment utterly. If he pitted in practice, they listened to his suggestions. In my opinion, the Williams people didn't have the same faith in Damon.

Q: Hill sometimes misjudges his overtaking and puts himself in a compromising situation. Is this a flaw?  
A: Yes, definitely. Overtaking has become more difficult and drivers who can overtake at the right time and place have a distinct advantage.

Q: What about Jean Alesi? Is he too much of a charger?  
A: He certainly is a charger — an acrobat at the wheel — but so was Tazio Nuvolari. Nuvolari, however, was an exception and most world champions are smooth drivers. I think Alesi can expect fierce opposition from his Benetton team-mate, Berger, who is very experienced and can be very fast if he thinks he has a race-winning car.

Q: Is sponsorship ruining Formula One? Are the top teams too rich?  
A: Sponsorship could be a good thing, but unfortunately only the top teams get big money. They also get about 70 engines per season free. The "also-rans of pit-alley", who struggle for sponsorship and must buy their own engines, never get a chance. This year, Ferrari could be the dark horse. It all depends on how quickly the new car can be sorted. Incidentally, Ferrari is no longer as Italian as most people think. The overall project is in the hands of an Englishman, John Barnard; the engine designer is Osamu Goto, a Japanese formerly with Honda; and team manager is a Frenchman, Jean Todt.

Q: Can the average continental still afford to watch expensive Formula One?  
A: I don't think that Foca — the Formula One Constructor's Association — cares enough about encouraging race fans. Motor racing cannot survive through television audiences alone. It needs a live, enthusiastic crowd watching thrilling racing — because then it becomes real show business.

Q: Are some drivers contributing sponsorship money and not being chosen on merit?  
A: Yes, this is a major problem. Formula One has two types of driver — those who are paid huge money for driving a car and those who inject considerable sums of money into the team kitty, just to get a drive. Their money often only lasts for a few grands prix, when they are replaced by another driver with sponsorship. So, when considering the also-rans, it doesn't follow that the better driver gets chosen.

Q: But didn't Colin Chapman of Team Lotus often enter a third car for a "national" driver 30 years ago? Weren't they "rent-a-drivers"?  
A: Not exactly. In those days, the automobile club organising the grand prix would often pay considerable starting money for a local driver to attract the crowds. Today, it is all in the hands of Foca and a "super" licence is needed before any driver may enter Formula One.

Q: Are drivers like Schumacher really worth \$25 million for 17 races?  
A: Mr Hill — but that is the harsh irony of life.

A: It is entirely proportionate. If the sponsor considers the publicity from having his name on a winning car is worth the money the driver gets to achieve it, then that driver is worth the money paid. It might be argued that a research scientist who discovers a miracle cure for AIDS, for example, is a pauper in comparison to Mr Schumacher or

Mr Hill — but that is the harsh irony of life.

Q: Are data acquisition systems (telemetry) preventing good test drivers emerging?  
A: No, both are vital. On-board computers constantly read every aspect of a car's performance and relay it back to another computer in the pits. When a driver comes in to

the pits and reports personally, his engineer can quickly see where performance may be improved. It is also a vital safety factor, as a driver on the track can be given advance warning of a deflating tyre before a possible accident.

Q: Foca has made pit-stops mandatory. Are too many crews at risk?

A: Definitely! In the 1950s, only two mechanics were allowed on the track and they did everything at a pit-stop — refuelling, oil, change tyres — while the team manager briefed his driver. If more than two mechanics worked on the car, it was immediately disqualified. Now the wealthy teams have at least 20 track personnel at every stop. This

causes severe overcrowding in the pit-road with the real risk of crew members being run over or trapped in an inferno of blazing fuel.

Q: Who were your favourite drivers?  
A: Without doubt, my top three would be Stirling Moss, Juan Manuel Fangio and Alberto Ascari.



Advice: Tony Dodgins, left, with Harvey Postlethwaite.

## "I give it full throttle. The crew run for cover"

Continued from Page 1  
ripping down. Tough. The track time was non-negotiable. It was now or never.

Cocooned low in the cockpit, I flick down the ignition switch and the Yamaha engineers fire it up from behind my shoulders. The external starter motor is plugged in and an air bottle is used to charge the pneumatic valves as an extra safety measure. There is none of the gut-wrenching vibrations you expect. The Yamaha, in fact, feels quite removed.

Time to go. I arm the gearbox electronics via a three-position switch on the right of the cockpit, depress the clutch and flick the right-hand gear paddle to select first. You need 3000rpm to prevent a stall and the pit apron glistens. Avoiding potential embarrassment, the mechanics push the car out and point it in the right direction. I determine not to

jerk to an embarrassing standstill, discover there is more clutch travel than I imagine, find the biting point and lurch away down the lane. I'm driving a Formula One car!

PLUMES of spray fan from the front tyres. The steering is direct, kart-like, but not heavy. That, though, is probably because I'm not going quickly enough to load it up. Down the hill into the slowest hairpin, my head is jolted by bumps, which in the road car hadn't even existed. Even on the over-run, with no throttle, the engine tries to push the tail out.

The run down into the Wurth chicane provides the first opportunity to get hard on the throttle. Trouble is, as the road kinks left a stream of standing water runs across the track. Even the likes of Senna and Prost have spun in a straight line in such condi-

tions, so I back off, turn into Wurth with practically no speed... and the thing swaps ends instantly.

Time to radio in: "Don't worry, I haven't hit anything." I sit there on the grass feeling foolish while they come out with the air bottle and fire it up again. Then it's my first hill start in an F1 car. Back to the pits for a check over.

Out again, and this time I tinkle it around before coming through on to Barcelona's mile-long straight for the first time. I get on to the throttle and wait for the earth-shattering explosion of power. But it's not as dramatic as I'd thought. That's because they've programmed the electronic throttle for delayed response and somewhat less than full power. But the brakes: they are simply phenomenal, hauling the speed down as I go on them at the 200 metre board from 150mph plus. Real driv-

ers leave it later than 100 metres from 190mph!

The Wurth chicane catches me out again, this time on the exit. Another spin. Another stall. Air bottle needed again and back to the pits. I ask for a more instant throttle and systems engineer Chris Hills flicks forward the throttle mode switch on the right of the cockpit. They also give me full power. With the scheduled hour fast evaporating, it's time for my last run.

Leaving the pitlane, I instantly feel the difference. Now the shifts from the pneumatic six-speed gearbox feel even more stunning. Flick, flick. I go from cog to cog in milliseconds, up and down. I come out on to the straight and give it 85 per cent throttle. How do I know that? Because the ensuing "moment" amuses the team so much that they expand it on the computer telemetry which monitors

everything the car does. It's the ultimate spy in the cab.

Instantly there is wheelspin, so I back off, figuring the car must not have been straight. Convinced it now is, I give it full throttle. Suddenly I'm in a 1.5g tail-slapper as the car snaps left-right-left-right as quickly as you can blink. The Tyrrell crew run for cover.

"THE steering inputs looked mighty interesting and the wheelspin was off the graph!" Postlethwaite explained later. "I don't know whether you knew much about it, but you did bloody well to get that back. It's not a nice feeling to lose an F1 car in the wet at 180mph. Ken had already sent for the ambulance..."

Chastened, I carry on with a suitably progressive and respectful application of right boot. Three-quarters of the way round the next lap, I spin once more, thankfully without

contact again, and I'm out of time. I've done two complete laps with a time for the three-mile circuit that is 30 seconds away from Tyrrell's Ukyo Katayama, when he goes out in slightly drier conditions.

So, can the man in the street do it? On the basis of my efforts, not a chance. A spectacular Martin Brundle surmised it up. "You weren't going to heat the tyres or brakes, or go quickly enough to generate downforce. You can spin these things at the most pathetically slow speeds and, given the conditions, you were on a hiding to nothing. Having the confidence to drive it quickly means knowing it. And how do you get to know it? It's the chicken and egg situation."

From an article in 'F1 Racing', a new monthly devoted to Grand Prix racing to be published in English and German. The first issue will be available this Friday, February 10 price £2.95.

Ferry Cleveland-Peck joins our Drive in Luxury competition winner as his Fiat Tippo is transformed

# A £1,500 inside job adds that Rolls-Royce feel



Before: Mr Roberts's Tippo had 104,000 miles on the clock when he arrived at Stratstone. Only his imagination limited its new look

Joining the upper classes: Roland Roberts reflects on how his car might look after the experts have finished

What with the occasional light aircraft, one or two small sports cars and the occasional motorhome, the vehicle interior craftsmen at Stratstone get some odd requests. Nevertheless, a complete leather re-fit to an F-registered Fiat Tippo was a challenge that they had to tackle.

At the winner of *The Times Drive in Luxury* competition, Roland Roberts, 40, a piano tuner, technician and notoring enthusiast from Stamford, Lincolnshire was entitled to a complete leather re-fit of a style and fit of his choice — approximately £1,500 worth of leather craftsmanship. *The Times* spent the day with him and his car as he toured the Stratstone Showrooms in search of his dream interior.

Stratstone, Wilmslow, Cheshire, established in 1909 as Stratstone of Inyfair and now part of the giant Indragroup, is one of five franchises trading out of the latest Porsche, Ferrari, Rolls-Royce, Mazda and Bentley dealerships outside London. The company's interior division specialises in a bespoke leather upholstery service. Seven fitters and one apprentice can take a wide selection of hides and craft them into original handmade leather interiors to exact requirements. As the brochure states: "The options are limited only by your imagination."

Imagination was in great demand when Mr Roberts, wearing a stylish Ros-Royce tie, arrived at the Stratstone workshop with his 1989 Fiat Tippo 1.9 Tds. Created by Steve Gogh, the customer sales

manager, who suggested a look at some of the completed Stratstone interiors before making any decisions, Mr Roberts was chauffeured to the Ferrari, Porsche and Rolls-Royce showroom in a Silver Shadow to study some of the leather upholstery.

On route, Steve Gogh explained a little about the company's policy. "We use the finest leathers from Connolly or Bridge of Weir, we don't compromise on quality. It has taken us a long time to get our team together and they now have over 90 years of experience."

"Did this experience stretch to Fiat Tippo?" "No, we haven't done one of those before," Steve confessed. "Usually we get Mercedes-Benz, Jaguars or BMWs whose owners want a leather interior put into their new cars — the new Rover MGPs are proving to be quite popular."

At the showroom, the *Times* prizewinner was momentarily silenced by a collection of some of the finest thoroughbred driving machines available: a gleaming Ferrari 512 M, an F-registered Testarossa worth £60,000, a 911 turbo and £63,000 worth of brand new Porsche 911 Targa, with glass sliding roof — clearly, there was no shortage of inspiration for Mr Roberts's interior.

Deciding that a pragmatic approach was the only suitable method for discerning the needs of the posterior, Mr Roberts positioned himself behind the wheel of a recently registered black Bentley Brooklands, complete with white-walled tyres. Looking replete, he volunteered that the Bentley was "quite comfortable really", to which

the Stratstone team, appreciating that they were not miracle workers, appeared worried.

Still, either unsatisfied, or perhaps relishing this new-found indulgence, Mr Roberts took up the driving seat of a brand new Ferrari 456 GT, a car he describes himself as passionate about. Worth £157,000 and delivering a performance which takes it to 60mph in 5.2 seconds, the four-seater Ferrari demonstrated an example of superior motoring luxury.

Back at the workshop, a long, low, rectangular room, smelling strongly of leather and resin and home for a while to a Porsche 911, a Mercedes-Benz Z20 and now Mr Roberts's Tippo, headcraftsman Ewan Pugh took stock of the metallic green/grey Fiat (with a Ferrari badge on the passenger wing and Mercedes C-class wheel trims) as he explained details of how the installation procedure is carried out.

First we remove the seats, door-panels, headlining and dashboard," he explained. "Then we unstitch the seat covers and sew on the selected hides. We use a nylon-bonded thread and a variety of stitches — mostly a saddle or face stitch for a strong, doubled-lined seam.

"Gearsticks and steering wheels are hand-sewn with a cross-stitch. On average it takes one person a week to complete the interior of a vehicle. Door panels go on last and, if necessary, incorporate a stitched pattern in order to break up the bulk. Similarly with the headrests."

The choice of hide is down to the individual. Connolly leathers tend to be softer and are of the type usually found in Jaguars, Aston Martins, Rolls-Royces and Ferraris. Bridge of Weir hides have a slightly more defined grain and are found in Saabs, Volvos and, at one time, Lotus vehicles.

Outside the hide-room, the Stratstone team waited to hear Mr



After: "Better than I ever imagined it would be, the workmanship is amazing. My car is unique and, at the very least, smells like a Rolls-Royce"

Roberts's final decision. Discussing the metallic green colour of his car with tongue in cheek, he inquired into the quantity and shades of purple hides available, which raised a few eyebrows around the workshop and provoked a distant mumbled response of "must be a mate of Stevie Wunder."

In the end, Mr Roberts selected a

set of bottle green Bridge of Weir hides with ruffled seat centres, flat borders and black piping. Sifted around the armrests broke up the door panels. Green headrests with black piping finished the job. And when everything was completed, an extremely satisfied Mr Roberts said that his Fiat Tippo, which he bought three years ago and now

has 104,000 miles on the clock, looked "better than I ever imagined it would be". Before its makeover it was worth about £2,600.

He added: "The standard of workmanship is amazing — they have done a really good job. My car is unique and, at the very least, it smells like a Rolls-Royce."

Stratstone Of Wilmslow, 01625 532673

## Trust your luck in the year 2000 as cars enter the age of green



Colour coded from left, PPG's Rainer Becher, Mike Mudge and Janis Brennen

Superstitious motorists should steer clear of the new car market in 1999. According to predictions at last week's 1999 Colour Show, green — once considered as unlucky as a broken mirror or the number 13 — will be the year's trendiest car colour.

Automotive colour styling consultant, Mike Mudge said: "Despite being traditionally thought of as unlucky, green cars have rocketed into third place in the popularity stakes, after red and blue."

The percentage of green cars in the UK has risen from 4.2 per cent in 1990 to 17 per cent. Red accounts for 25.4 per cent and blue 23.7 per cent. Even fleet buyers, who have traditionally bought white cars in bulk, are not immune to the new trend. "For years the top three car colours have been red, blue and white, but the popularity of white has been popped up by the company car market and environmentally-friendly fleet managers are now looking to green," said Mudge.

The PPG Industries Colour Show, held annually in Europe, North America and the Far East, predicts car trends three years ahead and launches new colours. Chances are high that you will not have heard of PPG (Pittsburgh Plate Glass Industries), but you'll find its products on your own car. Two-thirds of the vehicles in the Western world use PPG Industries' automotive coatings: it is the largest supplier of car paint in the world.

At the 1999 Colour Show more than 100 new colours

### Helen Mound checks the forecasts of the millennium's trendy shades

were on display for manufacturers from all over the world to consider using on the new cars they have planned for the next millennium. The colours on offer in the UK, US and the Far East vary because of different tastes, motorists in the Far East prefer shades of silver and grey, while most European countries have reds at the top of their list. Weather conditions also affect the choice; colours that look good in the UK can look grubby in Californian sunshine.

The show gives manufacturers a chance to plan the colour palette for their new cars, so that carpets, seat trim and interior plastics can be designed to suit predicted fashionable colours. In Italy the PPG range is so successful that Lancia has picked 112 colours for its Y10 hatchback. But manufacturers sometimes make hasty choices, like the "Sahara Desert" Land Rover chose to add a high profile to the launch of its new Range Rover. The lurid gold is complex and very costly for PPG to produce in small quantities for individual paint repairs.

As well as predicting green as the colour for 1999, 44 new UK colours were launched this year, including 15 shades of green, ranging from olive to

### There's a move towards earthy colours'

bright apple. There are also several new browns and violets on offer, but not many blues, greys and yellows. Two new paint effects were also announced, micro mica and coloured aluminium (a metallic paint with coloured flecks in the paint).

Launching a new colour is a tricky business, Mudge, alongside European and American colleagues Rainer Becher and Janis Brennen shows the colours off using giant jelly moulds known as "speeding images" — shapes designed to accentuate the curves of a car. Other colours are on panels similar to car doors and each is displayed among photographs of the influences that helped to create them, such as women's fashion, travel destinations, plants and food.

Mudge explains how the research for each show takes more than a year: "We're already looking at the colour trends for 2000. The majority of our influences come from women's fashion, we look at magazines and fashion shows, but also interior design."

The traditional notion of space age silver fashions and grey cars is proving out-dated for the year 2000: "Currently we're seeing a move towards more natural earthy colours,

Greens and browns are in fashion for women's clothes, and as these colours tend to translate into the car industry over three or four years, we expect to see more green and brown cars in the next millennium."

In the six years Mudge has presented the Colour Show, he believes the major breakthrough has been mica paint: "It involves three-dimensional spheres which are translucent, so not only do they reflect a certain amount of light, they also let light through, allowing for much brighter colours to be developed. The micro micas will improve on that brightness."

Ultimately we're interested in developing new effects, as they allow for new colours. In the late Eighties the split between solid colours and mica or metallics was 60/40, now it's more like 40/60, because the choice of mica metallic colours is so much wider. With the use of micro mica, we expect to see even more exciting colours being developed."

Standing out of the bright lights and general hubbub of the show, Gary Picken, UK Business Development Manager for PPG Automotive Refinish, is a little solicitous. "Once these colours and effects have been invented, the difficult part is making sure we can make them in small quantities for car dealership bodyshops. They have to be easy and affordable to repair."

No surprise, then, that under PPG's advice, Land Rover has left the Sahara Desert.

### PAINT CHART

## How you are the colour you drive

THE British taste for red, which accounts for more than a quarter of all cars on the road, is shared by most other European countries.

Surprisingly for such a popular shade, an analysis last year by a leading insurance company concluded that red signifies an ambitious driver who dislikes routine. In the Far East white is more popular, especially in Japan where it is a symbol of purity.

But when it comes to status, Henry Ford was right: black is the colour to be seen in if you want to appear successful or, of course, if you can afford a chauffeur. There is a price to pay, however, because it also carries a higher risk of theft.

Blue is the second most popular colour. Said to indicate a conventional attitude to life, it is much favoured by current Ford drivers.

Silver is another shade favoured by the less discreet than those who favour black.

Striking recent additions to the colour range include orange and purple which are proving popular for the MG/ and a wonderful mustard for the Fiat Punto. But if you really want to be noticed then yellow is for you. The perfect shade for the show-off.

CAR 96

FORD

MORNING 2.5 24V 5 door 3000... 13,250 01350 56066

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

CHEVROLET 4.0 LTD. SE. 1.7m... 21,200 ono 0181 2977

VOGUE SE

190 GJ Grey/FSH... 12,250 ono 01275 54004

SHOGUN 3500

LWB 28,000 miles... 27,300 Tel: 01795 84321 (H)

RANGE ROVER

1994 4.0 V8 Vogue SE... 22,500 Tel: 0171 638 9086

SHOGUN

3.5 V6 wheelchair... 22,500 Tel: 01444 471876

JEEP

Cherokee Limited... 17,950 Contact Simon 0171 243 1270

HADLEIGH

15 Used Chevroses... 01702 555889

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE WANTED

1987 car Land Rover... 0850 327088 0953 791579

MOTORS WANTED

WANTED Executive cars... 01293 810292

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

MINSTER

1991 SOVEREIGN 4.0 AUTO... 37,995

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

WANTED Executive cars... 01293 810292

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

Don't dream it - drive it

1984 Land Rover... 17,995

MERRITS FOR JAGUAR

1991 Land Rover... 17,995

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

WANTED Executive cars

1987 Land Rover... 17,995

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

WANTED Executive cars

1987 Land Rover... 17,995

MOTORS WANTED

WANTED Sports cars... 01293 810292

HONDA

LEGEND 3.2 1992... 19,495 Tel: 01674 672889

MARSHALL HONDA

1991 Legend... 19,495 Tel: 01674 672889

LEGEND

Coupe, auto, reg Jan... 19,495 Tel: 01674 672889

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

3.2 JAGUAR sport... 27,300 Tel: 01795 84321 (H)

SOVEREIGN 5.2

1991, 60k miles... 21,500 Tel: 0171 706 3672

XJS

4.0 Coupé auto... 21,000 Tel: 01922 44916

DAIMLER 4.0

1991 4.0 Coupé auto... 21,000 Tel: 01922 44916

JAGUAR & DAIMLER WANTED

1987 car Land Rover... 0850 327088 0953 791579

MOTORS WANTED

WANTED Executive cars... 01293 810292

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

WANTED Executive cars

1987 Land Rover... 17,995

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

WANTED Executive cars

1987 Land Rover... 17,995

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

WANTED Executive cars

1987 Land Rover... 17,995

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

WANTED Executive cars

1987 Land Rover... 17,995

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

WANTED Executive cars

1987 Land Rover... 17,995

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

JAGUAR & DAIMLER WANTED

1988 1995 Premium Prices... 01293 810292

ALL Jaguar under 60,000 miles

1990 1995 Jaguar... 01293 810292

LEXUS

1990 1995 Lexus... 01293 810292

LAND ROVER

1988 1995 Land Rover... 01293 810292

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1988 1995 LHLD... 01293 810292

LAND ROVER

1988 1995 Land Rover... 01293 810292

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1988 1995 LHLD... 01293 810292

LAND ROVER

1988 1995 Land Rover... 01293 810292

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1988 1995 LHLD... 01293 810292

LAND ROVER

1988 1995 Land Rover... 01293 810292

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1988 1995 LHLD... 01293 810292

LAND ROVER

1988 1995 Land Rover... 01293 810292

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1988 1995 LHLD... 01293 810292

LAND ROVER

1988 1995 Land Rover... 01293 810292

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1988 1995 LHLD... 01293 810292

LAND ROVER

1988 1995 Land Rover... 01293 810292

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1988 1995 LHLD... 01293 810292

LAND ROVER

LEFT HAND DRIVE

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY TDS... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

VOGUE SE

1990 1995 Vogue SE... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

VOGUE SE

1990 1995 Vogue SE... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

MERCEDES S200

1992, 192,000 miles... 22,000 Tel: 0202 208 311

LANCIA

1990 1995 Lancia... 22,000 Tel: 0202 208 311

JEEP

1990 1995 Jeep... 22,000 Tel: 0202 208 311

Jeep The American Legend

1990 1995 Jeep... 22,000 Tel: 0202 208 311

SALES 0116 275 5600

94 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER

Storm

Open 7 days

LOTUS

EXCEL SE 92K 40,000 miles... 12,995

SALES 0116 254 4200

94 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER

Storm

Open 7 days

LEFT HAND DRIVE

MILANO LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

1990 1995 LHLD... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEFT HAND DRIVE

LEFT HAND DRIVE

LEXUS AUTHORIZED

LS400, 95 100k miles... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

MURLEY OF WARWICK

1990 1995 Lexus... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

CONTACT JAMIE ALCOCK

01252 41115 W/and 0550 008512

HILLS OF WOODFORD

1990 1995 Hills... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEXUS IN LONDON & ESSX

1990 1995 Lexus... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

MAZDA

1990 1995 Mazda... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

MERCEDES

1990 1995 Mercedes... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

C280

1990 1995 C280... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

C220

1990 1995 C220... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

300 TE

1990 1995 300 TE... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

C200 Elegance

1990 1995 C200... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LEXUS AUTHORIZED

1990 1995 Lexus... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

BMG

1990 1995 BMG... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

PEACE OF MIND ON OFFER

1990 1995 Peace... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

MERCEDES AUTHORIZED DEALERS

1990 1995 Mercedes... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

Pinneys

1990 1995 Pinneys... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

HARPENDEN BERTS

1990 1995 Harpenden... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz

MERCEDES

220E 93 K auto... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

MERCEDES WANTED

1987 1995 Mercedes... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

MG

1990 1995 MG... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

MG RV8

1993, 21,000 miles... 18,000 Tel: 0171 821 7032

MITSUBISHI

1990 1995 Mitsubishi... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

3000 GT

1990 1995 3000 GT... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

NISSAN WANTED

1987 1995 Nissan... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

PERFORMANCE CARS

1990 1995 Performance... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

VAUXHALL LOTUS

1990 1995 Vauxhall... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

PEUGEOT

1990 1995 Peugeot... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

PORSCHE

1990 1995 Porsche... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

OFFICIAL PORSCHE CENTRES

1990 1995 Porsche... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

COLCHESTER

1990 1995 Colchester... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

CAMBRIDGE

1990 1995 Cambridge... 11,800 ono 0138 716745

LONDON



CAR TOONS

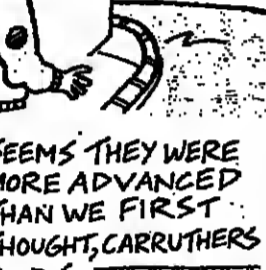
QUENTIN TARANTINO'S NEW BILIO AD



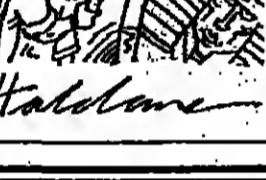
PANINI HISTORIC RELIANT ROBIN



BEWARE FALLING VW GOLFS



SEEMS THEY WERE MORE ADVANCED THAN WE FIRST THOUGHT, CARRUTHERS



FIAT UNO



Vaughan Freeman reports on a scheme to take the pain out of being an inner-city car owner

Instant rentals on your own doorstep

Playing hunt-the-parking-space is the bane of the inner-city motorist. But the answer could lie in two "Street Fleet" pilot projects - currently being tested in Bremen, Germany - in which small fleets of cars will be on hand for rent by those taking part.

Transport expert John Adams, of University College London, said: "The idea is based on the fact that if you drive fewer than 10,000 kilometres a year you are probably better off renting a car when you need one than owning your own. The average car spends 95 per cent of its time parked. All that time owners are paying insurance and road tax, and incurring depreciation."

was faced with the average cost per mile when renting a vehicle, that makes the cost of the public transport option more competitive. The Bremen experiment now has almost 1,000 participants who have access to 48 vehicles and pay a monthly club membership charge of £10 for two people, with use of the car priced at £1.40 per hour plus 17p per kilometre to cover fuel and servicing costs.

Haringey Council transport engineer Chris Bainbridge said it was hoped that funding for his pilot could be raised from the European Community, adding: "Such a scheme is a particularly attractive idea for a borough like ours where there is a great deal of pressure on street parking."

RAC spokesman Ed King, who has been active in promoting the Street Fleet idea, added: "Street Fleet is aimed at urban areas where there is already a good public transport infrastructure, where cars are hardly used at all during the week, but where people want a car at weekends to visit relatives, go mountain-biking in the country or get their weekly shopping."

Typical cars in a Street Fleet might include a Mini-sized town car, a family saloon, and a larger people mover such as a Renault Espace.

King added: "We would be the first to accept that this idea is not going to change the world, but it might free up parking in towns and reduce congestion, and make people think twice about whether or not they need a car."

At Hertz Rental, Stewart said they would be delighted to work with any partners in an effort to make such projects work in the UK. But he sounded a note of caution, pointing out that their own research showed motorists in the UK were far more reluctant to give up their own cars and to seek alternatives than

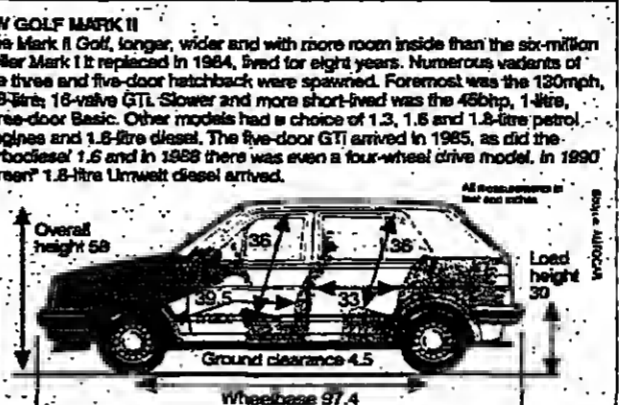
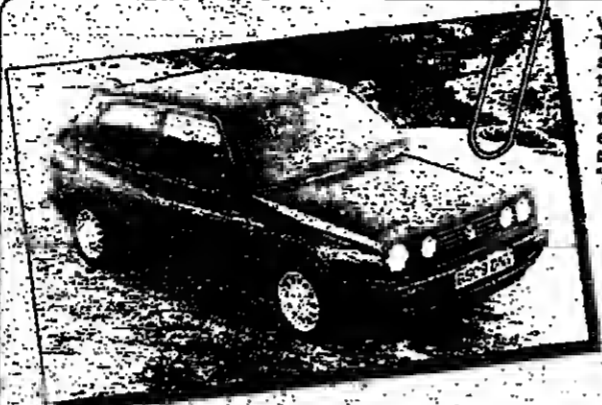
their counterparts in Holland, France or Italy. "We get the impression that people in the UK appreciate having their own car," he said. "The willingness to car-share, evident on the Continent, doesn't seem to have arrived here yet and motorists here don't seem comfortable with the idea of public transport."

He added though that such schemes would become more appealing if inner-city parking became even more difficult, and if motorists took a close and clear-eyed look at the true cost, per mile and per journey, of using their car.

50 CARS BETWEEN £15,000 & £25,000

Table listing 50 car models with their prices and specifications. Includes models like Volvo 850, Subaru Legacy, Saab 900, etc.

USED CAR BRIEF



GOOD NEWS: The Golf of the go-getting 80s was replaced by a more economical and frugal. That's why the VW Golf Mk3 is a reliable, rust-resistant, high insurance premium on COTI means prices are often as low as the less powerful models.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: Prices include VAT, clutch assembly £200, replacement front wing £120, headlamp unit £20, front brakepads £40, indicator unit £20, engine (see page 21, 400). 1985 1.3-litre three-door, £2,500 for a 1985 1.6-litre GTI 16-valve five-door, £4,000 for a 1990 1.8-litre GTI 16-valve five-door, and £7,250 for a 1992 GTI 16-valve five-door.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

CENTRAL REGISTRATIONS LTD. 0116 278 0359

CHOOSE YOUR OWN REGN. NUMBER! 01782 732 296

1 PH & 11 PH £90,000 FOR PAIR MAY SPLIT 0181 771 0011 (W) or 0181 769 6077 (H)

42 SAE ON RETENTION £1,300. Tel: 01142 669566 01442 681096 (Office)

3 FCY (FAT CAT YUPPIE) On Retention £4,995. Tel: Office: 01639 813663 Ask For Lynn

RDS £30,000. Private sale. 01962 878107

40 AM 84 FS. Tel: 01928 50999

B13 YAN B13 ENT B13 UCE B13 NDA. Call Brian or Brent on: 01943 873 990.

GP 84. Tel: 01332 273610/265760. KBL 1. Tel: 01928 762821. RIA 54. Tel: 01928 405484.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS. Lists various registration numbers and contact information for CENTRAL REGISTRATIONS LTD.

DVLA CLASSIC AUCTION of ATTRACTIVE REGISTRATIONS. FRIDAY MARCH 1ST. THE CONFERENCE FORUM, THE SEDGWICK CENTRE, LONDON E1 8DX. 11.00 AM. THE SALE WILL COMPRISE: GI LDS, NI QRY, TO TUS, SAR IS.

S.S.S. REGISTRATIONS. Lists various registration numbers and contact information.

Premier Plates. Lists various registration numbers and contact information.

MOTOR MARKS. FOR FREE VALUATION, PLEASE SEND A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. TEL: 0116 231 2233/0116 232 0116 FAX: 0116 2314496

BROOKS SPECIALIST AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS. 81 Westside, London SW4 9AY. Tel: 0171 228 8000 Fax: 0171 585 0830



ROADBLOCK GUIDE

LONDON
A40 Western Avenue, Acton. Major roadworks with a contraflow between Hilary Road in Acton and the Northern roundabout in White City.
A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edgware. Major roadworks continue over the Lea Valley viaduct.
A406 North Circular Road, Finchley. Major roadworks continue with various restrictions between the A1 and A1000 junctions.
A12 Eastern Avenue, Wansstead. Construction of the M11 link road continues, with east-bound reduced to a single lane between the Redbridge roundabout and High Street.
A4 Great West Road, Chiswick. Between Spm and Barn Monday-Thursday nights reduced to one lane each way for repairs to elevated section of the M4 above.

A6 Leicestershire. Major roadworks and contraflow at Lockington, between junction 24 of the M1 and Sawley Island.
A683 Leicestershire. Roadworks and contraflow on Lutterbrough Way, Leicester between the Dumbell Island and the A47 Hinckley Road junction.
A1 Nottinghamshire. Roadworks on Apley Head roundabout near Worksop cause regular peak-time delays.
A47 Norfolk. Two sets of major roadworks at Tarrington St John, and at Swettham.
A11 Norfolk. Construction of the new Wymondham bypass continues, with lane and speed restrictions between Hethersett and Attleborough.
NORTH
M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at and of the motorway at junction 47.
M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 21.
M6 Greater Manchester. Roadworks and lane closures between junctions 24 and 26.
M6 Lancashire. Lane closures in both directions between junctions 28 and 31 for work on the J65 extension.
A5063 Greater Manchester. Major roadworks and lane closures on Trafford Road, near the junction with Pomona Street.
A630 South Yorkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow on the Rotherway at Cantlow, between junction 33 of the M1 and Rotherham.
A167M Tyne and Wear. Northbound lane closures on the Newcastle Central Motorway near the Jesmond Road interchange for bridge repairs.
WALES
M4 Gwent. Widening work continues in connection with second Severn crossing between junctions 22 and 24.
A48 West Glamorgan. Construction work with lane closures on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.
A483 West Glamorgan. Major roadworks and contraflow on Fabian Way, Swansea between Elba Crescent and Earlewood traffic lights.
A4229 Mid Glamorgan. Roadworks and temporary lights at junction 10 with lane closures in both directions.
A547 Gwynedd. Bridge repairs with temporary lights near A55 junction at Llandudno Junction.
SCOTLAND
M8 Strathclyde. Roadworks with lane closures in both directions between junctions 26 and 27.
A749 Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge in Glasgow is closed southbound for repairs.
M80 Tayside. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane closures in both directions.
NORTHERN IRELAND
County Tyrone. Roadworks on the Omagh Bypass at the junction with Derry Road.

It began when I found a hole in the exhaust; one arm and one leg (plus VAT) later, I was reporting to the station

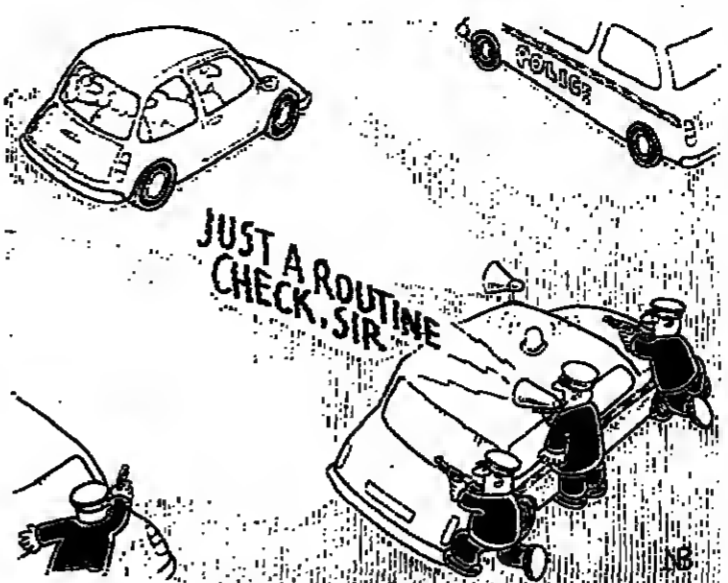
A paper chase with the police

I lfe from time to time imitates art, my latest escapade imitated the modern television art of Victor Meldrew. Indeed the phrase "I don't believe it" was passing from my larynx across my tongue when it turned into a resigned laugh, for the ability to see the funny side is becoming part of the standard-issue motoring kit.
What I needed was a new exhaust. So I went to an industrial estate where people with new exhausts tend to locate themselves. I knew the front section had a hole in it, but exhaust-types can always find new more holes, each of which is in a different section.
So I needed all three bits, but the exhaust type only had bits one and three. I decided to go elsewhere. I drove away... and was pulled over by the police.
"I've stopped you for having a noisy exhaust," said the officer.
"I don't believe it," I started. "Yes I know, I've been down to get one but they didn't have all the parts, so now I'm going to..."
Pause to give the officer some

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



credit. He will have heard this explanation a thousand times, but his face betrayed not a hint of world-weariness. In fact he looked as if he believed me, perhaps on the basis that the truth is stranger than fiction.
He then came out with the dread words "routine check". Lights, brake lights, tyres and so on. Now, when you write a column like this, which is often about the ludicrous behaviour of other people you get letters accusing you of pomposity. The



people who send those letters will get them replaced, they issue a form which has to be stamped by an MOT station to confirm the work has been done. You send it off to the police within 14 days and no more is said.
So I drove straight back to the exhaust type - he is also a tyre type - and after a bit of joshing about him ringing up the police whenever people with noisy exhausts disdain his services he fitted two tyres. Later I had the exhaust replaced, paid the bill - which came to one arm and

one leg, plus VAT - got the form stamped by an MOT station and sent it off. So that was all right.
What was not all right was the other part of the routine check: one's documents. I carry a driving licence, but not the insurance and registration document. Incidentally, people who carry photocopies of these in their cars are wasting their time: the police won't accept them.
So I had to produce the documents within seven days and discovered when I did so that the police station I nominated - in a small market town - has to deal with this procedure 3,000 times a year. I am all for people having the right documents, but police stations are pressed enough without having this tedious procedure added to their duties.
Several police officers I have spoken to would like to see the American system introduced. Over there, cars carry a disc on the windscreen which has all the relevant information: owner's name, registration document number, insurance details and so on. Thus the driver only has to carry his or her licence and in America (fly-drive tourists please note) you will certainly be prosecuted for not doing so.
As my campaign to have road tax abolished shows no sign of bearing fruit, perhaps the DoT would at least amend the disc to carry more information, thus saving motorists time and the police paperwork.

What can the matter be?

Sue Baker joins the thousands of motorists asked to bring their cars back because something's wrong

The garage service reputation was cheerfully candid. "This is all becoming a bit of a silly nightmare for us. It has been going on for months. We keep booking cars in, but some of them need parts that we're still waiting to arrive from Germany."
I had telephoned to book in my Golf for a safety inspection, as urged by Volkswagen, last week. Their letter alerted me to my car being subject to a recall, although that word was not used. VW called it a "safety action".
My car had been identified as one which, if operated over a prolonged period with an overheating cooling system, might suffer a ruptured boiler exchanger. In other words, if the car had not been looked after and was consistently run with the engine too hot, the heater might one day split and cascade scalding water over my feet.
The work to avoid this alarming prospect would be carried out "without charge" - but apparently not without inconvenience. The first available appointment was two weeks away, the chatty receptionist informed me. "We're snowed under with all this..."



More than 18,500 Fronteras - among 640,000 Vauxhalls recalled during 1995 - needed a faulty bonnet catch fixed



Volkswagen urged a safety check on 237,000 of its Golf models after a heat exchanger problem was discovered

Checking would take about an hour and a half, during which time a safety valve would be installed in the heater. But further work might be needed. Some recalled cars were found to need a new heater matrix, requiring a second, longer visit.
Because of the numbers involved - more than 200,000 cars in the UK - VW has been conducting this recall in waves, over nine months. Even so, it is not the biggest recall of the past year. That is credited to Vauxhall, with more than 600,000 Astras called-in to check on a potential fire risk, caused by possible static sparking during refuelling, as well as another problem which could cause the airbag to fail to operate.
Recalls are an irksome thorn in the side of the motor industry. They are costly, time-consuming and common. Last year there were 91 vehicle recalls, 53 of them involving cars, with buses and commercial vehicles accounting for the rest; that is a 50 per cent increase since 1980.
The total number of vehicles involved in 1995 recalls was 1,190,611.
Notoriously, a small percentage of owners never respond to recall notices, even after several reminders. Although some of those vehicles may no longer be in use - perhaps long since scrapped or exported - it still leaves worryingly high numbers of cars on the roads with potentially hazardous faults.
The Society of Motor Manu-

facturers and Traders takes pride in the response to recalls in Britain, which it claims is among the best in the world. Under a Code of Practice established in 1979, manufacturers regularly meet a target of 90 per cent recall response. But that still leaves a significant shortfall. Based on last year's figures, it means there were potentially nearly 120,000 owners who neglected to react to manufacturers' pleas to have their vehicles checked for known safety hazards.
Sean Wadmore, the SMMT's consumer affairs manager, says Britain's record compares well with the United States, where recall response is nearer 55 per cent, but he is not complacent. "Manufacturers aim to achieve a 100 per cent response, but some vehicles will always slip through the net.
"A major problem is the failure of people to notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency when a car changes hands. The details of ownership that manufacturers obtain from the DVLA are only a snapshot, and some are inevitably wrong."

Even the most prestigious marques do not escape having to recall cars. Rolls-Royce had two instances last year. The first affected the steering linkage of just one car, the second was to check front seatbelts on 154 Bentleys.
Ford scored the highest number of recalls over the past year, with nine, ranging from a wheel nut fault on 176 Mavericks to a vacuum pump problem on 17,799 Fiestas, Escorts and Mondeos.
Vauxhall, which announced its first recall of this year last weekend, topped the list for the overall number of cars affected during 1995: more than 640,000. Brian Setchell - who, as product quality

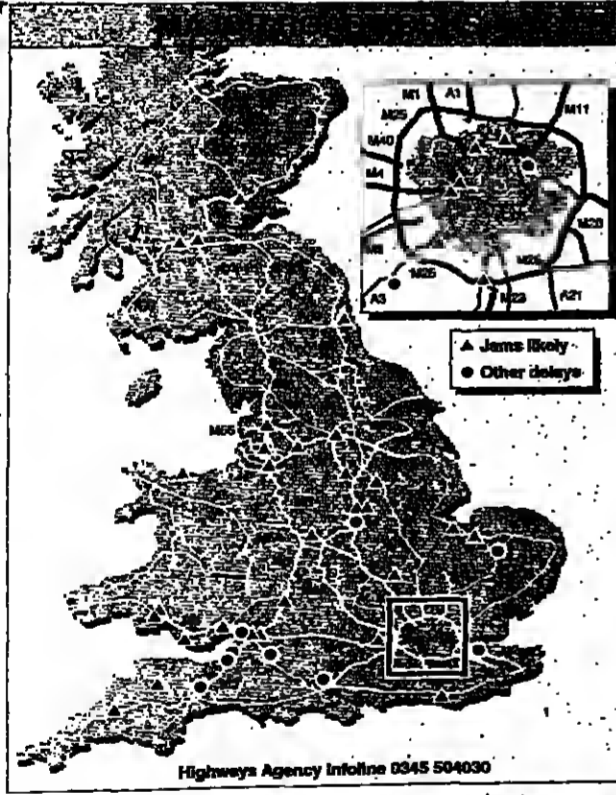
after-sales manager, is Vauxhall's man in the recall hot seat - says it is the result of becoming more proactive in identifying potential problems which could arise during a car's lifespan.
"You cannot say it is a failure to have to recall a car," he adds. "We are consistently building better vehicles, but inevitably human problems can still creep in. If a man working on 50 or 60 cars an hour starts putting a nut and bolt on the wrong way round, it very quickly affects a lot of vehicles."
The SMMT operates a recalls hotline. Ask for Consumer Affairs Department: 0171 235 7000. Top 1995 recalls were:

- Vauxhall Astra: 601,131 cars fuel pipe/airbag.
VW Golf/Jetta: (237,000) heater matrix.
Nissan Primera: (175,000) front brake hoses.
Land Rover: (55,903) seat belts.
Peugeot 306: (32,067) accelerator cable.
VW Passat/Golf: (28,128) headlamps.
Ford Escort: (23,000) rear brake cylinder.
Mercedes E-class: (22,824) passenger footrest.
Vauxhall Frontera: (18,565) bonnet catch.
Ford Fiesta/Escort/Mondeo: (17,799) vacuum pump.
Ford Mondeo: (15,755) fuel pipe.
Vauxhall Astra: (14,649) wiring harness.
Vauxhall Omega: (12,607) fuel pipe.
Ford Fiesta: (11,760) brake light.

Going too far can reduce the chances of children
Vaughan Freeman enters a fertile area

High-mileage male drivers have been given "stop, get out, shake 'em all about" advice by fertility experts in an effort to help prevent them developing problems they may experience in becoming a dad.
Sitting for hours every day at the overheated wheel of a company car or as a service engineer, or cooking gently in a lorry cab, legs clamped together, has been shown to reduce the chances of would-be fathers.
Research in France shows that the partners of men who spend hours at the wheel take up to 10 per cent longer to conceive. The Paris research concludes that this is because the testicles of drivers become unnaturally warm as they sit at the steering wheel, which can have the effect of lowering the sperm count.
Peter Bromwich of the Midland Fertility Services says high mileage driving can reduce sperm count by a few per cent. "At the margins, having semen problems is a difficulty where driving too much makes semen less good. Wives of such men, instead of getting pregnant in four months, might get pregnant in five or six months."

For drivers who are concerned, he advises them to restructure their day, and plan journeys so that they spend less time at the wheel: "If they are having to drive a lot, then every couple of hours stop the car, get out, walk around, shake their testes up and let some cool air in.
"It was first noticed when people looked at the Teamsters' Union in the United States and found that truck drivers who did more than 25,000 miles in a year were less fertile than those who drove fewer than 25,000 miles a year.
Mr Bromwich explained that the testes work better when they are cooler and men are designed so that they "hang outside the body. Bikes are designed not to wear anything in that area, and for the testes to hang free away from the body and to keep cool."
However, Mr Bromwich stresses that alcohol and cigarettes are far more likely to reduce the efficacy of sperm, and new fertility techniques mean that even the highest-mileage drivers have a chance of fathering.



Highways Agency hotline 0545 504030

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taxing question

MOTORISTS should be told exactly how much of what they pay for fuel is going into the Chancellor's pocket, say the AA and RAC. Less than one-third of the £24 billion raised in tax at the petrol pump is spent on transport. A joint campaign to highlight the facts was launched during a debate on transport policy with Jonathan Porritt, former director of Friends of the Earth, at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu yesterday. Neil Johnson, the RAC's chief executive officer, said: "Despite the fact that the majority of motorists consider the car a necessity, the Treasury continues to tax it as if it is a luxury."

Barnard honoured

JOHN BARNARD, technical director of Ferrari, who has also designed for McLaren, Lola and Benetton in a career spanning more than 25 years in motor sport, has been made a Royal Designer for Industry (RDI), a rare honour awarded by the Royal Society. His designs included the first all-carbon fibre chassis for McLaren and pioneering use of the electronic shifting gearbox by Ferrari.

Energy conservers

THE new BMW 5-series, to be launched in Britain in April, will be fitted with energy-saving tyres developed by Continental. The German company claims that the ContiEcoContact tyre offers 25 per cent less rolling resistance than its previous range, paving the way for major savings in fuel consumption.

Savings for security

MORE than 50 insurance companies are now offering discounts of up to 20 per cent to motorists who fit their cars with Securitor TrekBak, the advanced protection, tracking and recovery system, which features a sophisticated immobiliser and an automatic tell-tale signal if a thief defests it.

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long. Includes sections for Ferrari, Brough Superior, and a Volkswagen Astra advertisement.

It resembles a lemon drop on wheels and driving it is like being in an RAF Phantom. Kevin Eason reports

# Tax disc? Look, I haven't even got a windscreen

**M**y mind was focused on the curves, the gear-change and the split-second decision that would be the difference between braking in time and a visit to the gravel trap.

There I was, dressed like a cross between an Eskimo and Michael Schumacher, ready to confront Renault's new Sport Spider, a 135mph open two-seater of such radical design that it will drop jaws all over Europe this year.

But I had other things on my mind. I mean, there are all these clever design chappies working away on a mega-budget and they come up with a car that looks like a lemon drop on wheels — and there's still nowhere to stick the tax disc. As well as no roof, there isn't a windscreen either.

Renault launched its Sport Spider this week at the Paul Ricard circuit, near Marseille. The French company has one of the most flamboyant and interesting design teams in

Europe and, apparently, a management prepared to produce vehicles which push the boundaries of taste to a seldom explored limit.

The Spider should, by all conventions, never have been built. Carmakers show concept models like it all the time at motor shows claiming they are the future — then go off and make something that looks as interesting as a milk float. Renault actually did it with the Spider, making a car quite unlike anything else.

Squat and low, the road-going version has the same 2-litre, 150 brake horse power engine that goes into the Renault Clio Williams, mounted behind two deeply uncomfortable bucket seats. The doors spring up and pull down like beetle wings to enclose the most Spartan interior in world motoring: the cabin is little more than an aluminium and composite box.

The driver faces a dashboard with stainless steel dials, showing engine revs, oil

pressure and engine temperature; speed, clock and fuel gauge are all shown separately on a digital screen. The seat moves forward but the steel drilled pedals move up to meet the driver if needs be. There is no heater and forget radio; you could never get near hearing it even if it used the speakers from a Blur concert.

The Spider has cleverly positioned slats, which apparently deflect the air up and over the driver and passenger. Great theory, but requiring a great act of faith from your faithful test driver. I accepted the argument, but why was there an array of helmets ready to pick up before I was sent out on to public roads?

Do I really need a helmet? I asked innocently. "Ha, non, monsieur," said the engineer, "but I would not know when ze gravel hits you in ze face."

Oh, fine. I'll take the helmet then. And, Heavens to Betsy, it was needed because any speed above 60mph felt like sticking



The Renault Spider: the French company is prepared to push the boundaries of taste to a seldom explored limit

**RENAULT SPORT SPIDER**

Body: Open two-seater, aluminium strengthened with composite materials.

Engine: 4-cylinder, 2-litre, 16-valve, as used in Renault's Clio Williams, set amidships for balance. Delivers 150bhp at 6000rpm (180bhp racing version).

Transmission: Five-speed manual (6-speed racing version).

Performance: 0 to 62mph in 6.9 seconds (6.2 racing version). Top speed 135mph. Not as fast as some, but it feels hair-raising — literally — from driver's position inches above the ground.

Economy: Don't ask.

Equipment: Hand adjusted wing mirrors. That's it, no radio, no heater — bring your own helmet and thermals.

Price: est. £25,000.

your head out of the open window of an RAF Phantom on a low level pass over Wales.

But there was more to this fearless test: a spin around the Paul Ricard circuit in the competition version of the Spider, Renault plans its own races for Sport Spider owners,

the little cars uprated by another 30bhp to blast around Europe's circuits.

Renault dressed me head to foot in baggy racing overalls and helmet, driving gloves and a modicum of hope, and set me off. Now this was a motor that blasted off the grid

like a rocket, had a non-synchronous racing gearbox and unassisted brakes — and it was being guided by a motorist with more in common with Willie Schumacher than Michael. But even I couldn't make enough high-speed mistakes to wrong-foot

the car. The slicks clung to the tarmac. I clung to the steering wheel and the men from Renault clung to their mobile phones in case everything went wrong.

At least, there was no flying gravel, but I expect that the 75 Britons who have put a £5,000

deposit on their new Spider this year will confine their motoring to sunnier days, quieter roads... or simply polishing one of the most remarkable shapes to come out of any car factory. It is almost worth risking a fine for failing to display a tax disc.

## Hugh Hunston welcomes the latest offspring born of a Swedish-Japanese-Dutch manufacturing relationship

**W**hen Volvo's dynamic duo, the S40 saloon and its hatchback-cum-estate car the V40, roll into British showrooms on May 28 the company will be moving into territory largely unexplored by the marque.

After a five-year gestation period, the Dutch-built twins are the product of a unique Euro-Japanese relationship between Volvo and Mitsubishi which also spawned the "other half" Carisma model, within the NeolCar incubator.

But the good news is that the S40 and V40 are not clones of their Japanese half-cousin, even if parallel production facilities and crucial economics of scale from shared development were central to the project.

The saloon and wagon look like Volvos, in a fresh way, feel like Volvos, and they protect their occupants both actively and passively in time-honoured fashion. Because most rivals have stolen Volvo's safety clothing the S and V40 are being pitched heavily on a combination of lifestyle and driving dynamics.

They are aimed at the upper

## To Volvo: twins, both healthy

medium car sector in Europe (everything from the Ford Mondeo to Audi A4 and BMW 3 Series) boasting 3 million potential buyers. In reality, Volvo's British clientele will be restricted to 7,000 this year because of right-hand drive production restrictions at the Born factory in Holland.

Although sharing the same outline platform with the Carisma, Volvo's life preserving approach means the S and V40 have chassis strengthening and extra weight to match the structural strength of the larger S80 saloon and estate. The stiffer body shell should make for less noise and rattles, but pre-production V40s were afflicted by a squeak in the rear seatbelt mechanism. A senior engineer claimed

WD40 on the line would solve the problem.

Mounted in the now *de rigueur* transverse front-wheel-drive format, the petrol-powered cars use four-cylinder 1.8 and 2-litre engines producing 115 bhp and 137bhp respectively with manual five-speed and automatic gearbox alternatives. A 1.9-litre 90bhp diesel option will arrive next January. Sharp and responsive handling and road-holding characteristics place them at least on a par with Audi and BMW rivals.

Underplayed at the launch was a standard "dynamic stability system" which electronically senses adhesion through the front-driven wheels and retards the power if they lose grip or spin. In layman's terms, it shuts off one cylinder in the engine, rendering the car a three-cylinder machine until normal service is resumed via the tarmac. Combining this with across the range anti-lock brakes emphasises accident avoidance as much as crash damage limitation.

Attention to detail includes improved dipped headlamp



The S40 saloon: pitched on lifestyle and driving dynamics



The V40 hatchback: not a clone of its Japanese half-cousin

**Volvo's new duo**

Body styles: S40 4-door saloon, V40 5-door sports estate.

Engines: 1.8 (115bhp) and 2-litre (137bhp) aluminium 16-valve petrol units.

Performance: 0-62mph 10.8 seconds (1.8-litre manual). Max speed 121mph (130mph for 2-litre).

Economy: S40 1.8-litre manual: urban, cycle, 27.4mpg; constant 56mpg, 47.5mpg; constant 75mpg, 39.2mpg. V40 2-litre auto: 23.5mpg; 40.4mpg; 33.2mpg.

Price: £14,000-£20,000.

effectiveness for the crucial vision range up to 75 metres in front of the car.

These Volvos are the first in class to incorporate side mounted airbags. Happily, these protective devices do not produce a siege environment, and although the grey-trimmed interior lacks distinction it is a major improvement

on previous Volvos. Sportiness, youth appeal and vitality pepper the press blurb and testify to Volvo's avowed aim of bringing its ownership age profile down. Singles and young families are particular S and V40 target groups.

Volvo is playing for big stakes in the toughest high-volume sales arena. English-

man Peter Horbury, Volvo's resident styling guru, has elevated the chunky S40 and sleek V40 above most rivals.

The Dutch-based Mitsubishi-Volvo link is likely to nurture an increasingly meaningful automotive relationship, which promises an expanding and varied family for both partners.

## What led to Jaguar's little local difficulties

**Q** I thought that British car exports were thriving. Why has Jaguar laid off a third of its workforce?

**A** The motor industry is subject to some strange variations at the moment. British factories sent 744,606 cars to export markets last year, a 20 per cent increase on the previous year and more than 48 per cent of total production. More than 1.5 million cars were made here, the best figure for 21 years.

**Q** And I thought I'd read about Jaguars-outselling Ferraris in Italy.

**A** Jaguar sales throughout Europe last year were nearly 60 per cent higher than in 1994 at 7,230 against 4,633. In Italy the company sold 1,075 cars — twice as many as Ferrari sold.

**Q** So why has the company laid 2,200 workers to go home for a week?

**A** While Europe is important, Jaguar's biggest ex-

port market is in the United States. Sales there were up 18 per cent last year, but last month they showed a severe slow-down. It seems that much talked about "feel-good" factor is taking even longer to show in the US than here.

**Q** But I thought that after August, when the registration letter changes, January was the best month for car sales.

**A** Correct again, but on that basis 1996 doesn't look very promising. New registrations here in January were up just 0.3 per cent at 191,761. Imports took a 60.87 per cent share of the market.

**Q** So is the outlook for Jaguar gloomy?

**A** Not entirely. The real moment of truth will come at the Geneva Motor Show in March when Jaguar unveils its new XK8 sports car, grandchild of the E-type. If it succeeds like its predecessors, the Big Cat will be Top Cat again.

# THE NEW MAZDA 626

**(mazda) > (the rest)**

**Good news**  
0345 48 48 15

**Bad news**  
0345 48 48 16

**Don't know?**  
Tell me more about the new Mazda 626.  
0345 48 48 49

PRICE EXCLUDES DELIVERY (£415), NUMBER PLATES AND ROAD FUND LICENCE.

# On the seedy side of sex

The real war of the sexes is fought on a microscopic scale, Ginny Dougary finds

■ **SPERM WARS:** Infidelity, sexual conflict and other bedroom battles  
By Robin Baker  
Fourth Estate, £7.99

Like its scarcely less spicy-sounding scientific precursor, *Human Sperm Competition: copulation, masturbation and infidelity*, *Sperm Wars* aims to tell you everything you need to know about sperm. And much more. There is nothing startling about its thesis that men are genetically programmed to conquer and women to breed. What is new is the quality and quantity of information on sperm (shape, size, character, motive, purpose), cervical mucus and the mysteries of the damp patch: all of which is intended to show that every sexual act — from masturbation to rape — is

predicated on the male's unconscious desire to knock his rival's more weedy sperm for six, and the female's complementary desire to collect the finest grade sperm available. Much of the information in the first section of the book is riveting. (I had no idea that my cervix was quite so crafty or ingenious.) And the author certainly has a talent for making the mechanics of reproduction accessible: his image of the penis as a thrusting vacuum cleaner is quite unforgettable. But there is only so much one can absorb about egg-getting conquerors versus kamikaze troops without feeling like an old man in a grubby mac wanting to flick the pages to the dirty bits. There is another problem, which the author seems to address in the



War front: fertilised human egg

section on rape. Darwinian science when applied to human beings can smack of a clinical, rather Hitlerian detachment. The woman who allows the stepfather of her children to violate her daughter and beat up her son, is "successful" because she also allows him to impregnate her with vigorous sperm. I have rarely found sex so depressing. But my body, of course, might think otherwise.



NEW IN PAPERBACK

Armstrong: exploring the origins of Western misogyny

■ **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO WOMAN**  
By Karen Armstrong  
Fount, £8.99

ARMSTRONG, one-time nun-turned-teacher and full-time writer, is also the author of the best-selling *A History of God*. This work, first published in 1986, is a strongly worded and fascinating exploration of Christian neuroses and the origins of Western misogyny. While never elevating other cultures at the expense of the West, one of her main points is that while Judaism and Islam are in many ways chauvinistic and repressive towards women, they do not preach sexual disgust the way Christianity does. In the first centuries after Christ, the Christian message was

mostly egalitarian. Gradually it was reinterpreted until a high-handed pronouncement on the status of women by St Paul became hysterical denunciations of female sexuality by the likes of St Jerome. The latter so revels in his own disgust that he seems a forerunner of the Victorians: the *let's take another look at this just to remind ourselves how disgusting it really is!* school of hypocrisy.

Armstrong examines the witch, the virgin, the martyr and the mystic: the different ways women are pigeon-holed in order to be controlled, all the time relating her theories to the way we behave today, both consciously and unconsciously. An extremely enlightening if depressing read.



■ **LOUIS MACNEICE**  
By Jon Stallworthy  
Faber, £12.99

IN A LETTER to an Oxford friend in 1929 MacNeice described himself as "in some strange way hollow": a statement of unhappiness that echoed the *Zeitgeist*. It is hard to think of him now without the other members of that 1930s triumvirate, Auden and Spender, or to free him from nostalgic associations with the wartime BBC. Jon Stallworthy does justice to MacNeice's originality and brings the charismatic Irishman alive — clever, ironic, "totally, irredeemably heterosexual" (as Anthony Blunt called him) and ultimately sad.

■ **GOOD BENITO**  
By Alan Lightman  
Sceptre, £5.99

LIGHTMAN, besides being a professor of science, is a

■ **LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR DEAD**  
By Randall Kenan  
Abacus, £6.99

SET in the close-knit, superstitious North Carolina farming community of Tims Creek, these 12 interwoven stories conjure up an elemental world in which the stark realities of poverty, racial tension and sexual betrayal are shot through with visions and fantasies. A place of golden cornfields and rocking chairs, Tims Creek is also the haunt of ghosts and angels — the spectres of lost loves, past crimes and disappointed dreams. Kenan writes with infinite compassion and lays bare the hearts and minds of his characters.

■ **EMPTY CRADLES**  
By Margaret Humphreys  
Corgi, £6.99

IF SOMEONE told you she was put on a boat to Australia, alone, at the age of four, you too might not believe it. For Margaret Humphreys, future founder of the Child Migrants Trust, this was only the first in a tidal wave of testimonies through which she came to understand and reveal the anguish of children — many told their parents were dead — who were shipped off to the British colonies, often to face physical and sexual abuse. A shocking tale of social engineering gone wrong, this is also an inspiring account of tireless commitment in the face of sloth and vested interest — and of unlimited compassion for its pawns.

Contributors: Tania Glyde, Hazel Leslie, Kate Bassett, Nicki Household, Alison Burns

## Capitalism with a human face

John Naughton on America's wealthiest ordinary Joe

OUTSIDE the City of London, most people in this country have probably never heard of Warren Buffett. In America, however, he has the status of a folk hero. This is because, despite being fabulously rich (second only to Bill Gates at current stock-market prices), he is also fantastically unpretentious. He dresses scruffily and lives in Omaha, which is closer to Deadville than even Des Moines. He still resides in the house he bought in 1953 for \$31,500, drives his own car and drinks only Cherry Cola. The annual report of his company, Berkshire Hathaway, reads like something by Will Rogers out of J. P. Morgan. *Indeed people buy a single Berkshire share (currently priced at more than \$16,000) simply to get a copy.*

Buffett runs one of the biggest conglomerates in America from a modest office suite with a tiny staff and spends most of his day talking on the telephone or reading in an office which boasts neither a calculator nor a computer. His only concession to executive hubris is a (second-hand) private jet — and even that was justified by claiming that scheduled flights had become difficult because of being pestered by fellow passengers seeking stock-market tips.

For Buffett is a genius at picking shares — the smartest punter in the history of the stock market. It is one thing to make a million bucks from an astute share deal or two, quite another to outperform the Dow index year in, year out. But Buffett has been doing this for more than 40 years, during which time he has never lost money for himself or his investors. For four decades he has been spotting stocks in public companies which were underpriced rela-

■ **BUFFETT: The Making of an American Capitalist**  
By Roger Lowenstein  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

tive to the "real" values of those companies, buying them cheap and watching them rise. In the process he has not only enriched himself but also those investors who spotted his potential early and stuck with him. And therein lies the secret of the Buffett legend, for he is the ultimate embodiment of the American dream — a combination of Forrest Gump and Midas.

Roger Lowenstein's admiring biography of this legendary figure tells a story that is almost too good to be true — about how an earnest, quiet schoolboy with a prodigious aptitude for numbers, an astonishing confidence in his own judgment and an obsession with accumulating money grew to become an investor with an unparalleled capacity for backing long-term winners. And the strangest aspect of the story is the sheer mundanity of Buffett's formula, which is based on the idea that share price is generally a poor measure of the "underlying value" of a stock.

His trick was to ignore the day-to-day frothing of the markets and to scrutinise companies in order to identify which were properly-run businesses with growth potential; and then to buy the stock and wait for stock-market valuation to catch up with the reality. The theory is simple, but practising it has evidently been beyond the reach of Wall Street's finest. What was needed, it seems, was the discipline, patience and invincible self-confidence which still defines Middle America — and its finest son, the inimitable Warren Buffett.



Heavy weather: on the seafront at Dover during the great storm of October 1987

## Raining cats and frogs

SHUDDERING in the cruel east wind, what this country really needs is a chirpy weatherman to tell us that we ain't seen nothing yet. Fortunately, there is something about British weather communicators which makes them ineffably cheerful at all times. Meteorology, apparently, is so satisfying a science that it brings a certain chirruping contentment to its practitioners.

Paul Simons is no exception. *Weird Weather* is a chatty, sporadically instructive anthology of the extremes and oddities of climate. It tries half-heartedly to throw in serious bits about global warming and disaster, but keeps reverting to a tone I can only describe as gleeful. Heard about the shower of

■ **WEIRD WEATHER**  
By Paul Simons  
Little, Brown, £15.99

live frogs in Shepton Mallet? The Rickmansworth frost-holow (as cold as Braemar), or the Mablethorpe waterspout? Did you know that a NASA rocket packed with meteorological equipment to study lightning was prematurely set off — by a bolt of lightning? Know the one about the sea monster off Orkney that turned out to be a whirlwind? How many winds can you name which cause suicide? Simons can help.

Do you wonder about will-o'-the-wisps, or why rain smells or whether it is true that St Elmo's fire once irradiated a Dover school football team? Do snowflakes tinkle? And how did Second World War bomber bases disperse fog with oil drums? Did you know that San Francisco would have been discovered 200 years earlier but for the fog? Pay attention there, class — the fastest avalanche in the world was 217mph. At first I found this book annoying. But I am British and so have succumbed totally. I shall talk of little else for weeks; for true Brits know that discussing weather, not the single European currency, is the way to happiness. Don't go away, I was going to tell you about the effect of rainfall on the sex life of the Panamanian fungus beetle...  
LIBBY PURVES

## It's all very wellie

■ **ANGELS ALONE**  
By Kate Hatfield  
Corgi, £5.99

I SHALL get my grumble over with. I am bored with reading about characters who have silly, boarding-school names (Caro, Nicko, Sasha, Flavia) and bored with all that their names imply (large, cold, crumbling houses and a tendency to pour large whiskies when the going gets tough). But my irritation is really with the unspoken assumption of writers and publishers that the moneyed classes make endlessly fascinating literary material for popular fiction. They do not, especially when they come with the same old clichéd relationships and attitudes.

That said, *Angels Alone* is not bad. Lavinia is married to a junior minister, Tom Medworth, who, as a keen hunter, has become a target for animal rights activists. Tom has a horrible, horsey family with a particularly overbearing mother. Lavinia's marriage to him is tired and strained. He is charming and works too hard; she feels dowdy, inadequate and angry, and hates the children being away at school. There is plenty to keep them apart and — seemingly — not much to keep them together. Then Tom disappears, shedding light on the darker aspects of their life together.

As an example of the green-wellie genre, *Angels Alone* is perfectly readable, well-constructed and mercifully unpredictable. In fact, I guessed the ending half-way through and I was wrong, which was much more fun than being right and is testimony to Kate Hatfield's abilities as a storyteller. I found most of her characters indistinguishable from one another but I quite liked her authorial voice. Though she lacks the spark of true originality, Hatfield has true compassion for her characters, and that, at least, is more than can be said of this reader.  
MARY LOUDON

The new post-Cold War villains are renegade communists, says Peter Millar

## Red cowboys, dead Indians

RELATING the make-believe world of the thriller to reality is a risky business. One route, mapped by Frederick Forsyth in *The Day of the Jackal*, is to set the action in the past, then reveal the "secret" story of how history almost crashed off the rails.

David Mason dealt in his first book *Showdown over Babylon* with a former SAS squad's assassination attempt on Saddam Hussein, in *Little Brother*, he reassembles some of that team in an effort to stop an assassination. The villains are the former East German secret police, the Stasi, now cast as hit-men-for-hire hanging out in North Korea. This is rip-roaring macho stuff in the best Wilbur Smith tradition that bizarrely includes a plug for John Major that the No 10 PR boys would have killed for and enough

■ **LITTLE BROTHER**  
By David Mason  
Bloomsbury, £15.99

■ **WALKING BACK THE CAT**  
By Robert Littell  
Faber, £14.99

SAS myth-making to keep the Hereford hard men happy. The book's sadly marred by a few factual inaccuracies, and Mason's protagonists have too much of Hogan's Heroes about them. But he gives us just enough hints to guess the assassination target and then pulls off a last page double

bluff to tie in tightly with the history books. Robert Littell has chosen an altogether more exotic post-Cold War vein to mine. His villains are not the Stasi but the KGB themselves, or at least an American-based network, cut off and left in limbo by the fruits of perestroika. That is, until Moscow Centre resurrects itself in the shadowy form of a new "rezident" codenamed Prince Igor and begins ordering their "wet-work" expert, codenamed Parsifal, to murder Apaches. Enter Finn, a Gulf War

veteran with a horror of war and empathy with the Apaches, who make their living from a gambling casino in the New Mexico desert. When Finn finds out that the casino is being taken to the cleaners and Parsifal wonders why Moscow is interested in dead Indians, their interests collide. They begin "walking back the cat", CIA slang for what John le Carré would call "taking the backbeatings". But tracing the chain of command from the bottom up reveals disturbing parallels between the reactivated Russian network and the mafia-style casino shakedown. Not just the bad guys go off the rails, they discover.

This is an extraordinary thriller, challenging, brutal yet curiously optimistic, an offbeat epic about offbeat humanity.

## England's white, unpleasant land

THIS is the story of two sisters, born in London in the 1960s, the children of Jamaican immigrants. The elder, Olive, has a much darker skin than her sister Vivien. They narrate alternate chapters. Vivien represents assimilation through education and the social mobility it brings. She is not fooling herself, she says. "When I was young, I used to look at my parents... and think how lucky this country was to have them... but even when I was young, I knew that English people hated us" — but she chooses to keep her head down, and thus escapes some of the traps of race, class and gender, exchanging the naked

■ **NEVER FAR FROM NOWHERE**  
By Andrea Levy  
Headline Review, £12.99

racism of her council estate for the gentled racism of art college. Olive's is a different tale. She is rebellious. She becomes trapped by poverty, sex and prejudice. She says: "My mother didn't believe in black people. She tried to believe that she was not black. I tried to explain that, now I was a grown-up, I liked being black. Being black was something to be proud of." But Olive only discovers this racial pride from a position of weakness, and its

discovery does not do her much good. The blurb says that this book "will shake you with its raw energy". Novels about race and class that promise to do that are probably best avoided. This one, however, is much longer on intelligent restraint than it is on "raw energy". The story is well told, does not dodge complexity and rings true as an account of the fear and confusion felt by first-generation black English people 20 years ago. Above all Andrea Levy succeeds in showing how people respond to an identity imposed on them by others.  
ROBERT CRAMPTON

## Ungroovy kind of love

THE 1960s are high fashion again. Perhaps their explosion of youth and confidence looks even brighter now against the backdrop of recession. Nostalgia sells, the Beatles are back, and so are skinny clothes for malnourished models. But Frances Donnelly's new novel takes on the darker side of the 1960s.

The evil star of *Catch the Wind* is Kit Carson, a rock musician shooting from success to terrifying fame. His fans would like to eat him alive and on one occasion they nearly do. The portrait of Kit is vivid, believable and the best thing in a book which tells rather than shows. Kit cannot handle what his talent and charisma bring him, and his self-destructiveness is only exceeded by his ability to destroy those around him.

*Catch the Wind* follows three young women whose mothers were the main characters in Donnelly's first novel, *Shake Down the Stars*. Daisy, fresh from the glamour of Haight Ashbury, preaches total sexual liberation. In fact, she is deeply depressed by orgies with unappealing men and menaced by a drug scene turned sour and violent. This is a novel of survival through self-discovery and a return to certain basic values. Daisy shakes off photographers and television personalities who



Donnelly: low-key writing

■ **CATCH THE WIND**  
By Frances Donnelly  
Corgi, £5.99

see her as a symbol of swinging London and falls in love. Annie, who is a talented dress designer but has no confidence, slowly learns to trust herself. Alexis, Kit's lover, eventually flees his violence. Donnelly touches on the mixture of fear and shattered confidence that makes women stay with violent men. It takes a scene in which Kit smashes his newborn daughter's cradle and punches Alexis while she is holding the baby before Alexis can emerge from her numb passivity. But although the events are dramatic, the writing is low-key and so *Catch the Wind* remains readable rather than absorbing. Donnelly has not yet achieved that difficult combination of strong story, tension, sparkle and pace that turns a good popular novel into a magnetic bestseller.  
HELEN DUNMORE

NEW ON CD: Sparkling *Costi*; Rachmaninov as nature intended; Hounslow's Bluetones take wing; Ben Webster swings with strings

OPERA

John Higgins

MOZART *Costi* fan tute Fleming/von Otter/Scarabelli/Lopardo/Bär/Pertusi/Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Solti



Fleming: outstanding

Here is sunlit Solti. Except during Fiorilligi's Act II aria, *Per pietà*, he adopts quicksilver tempos, using the lightest of touches with his small and expert band of players.

Solti's previous *Costi* for Decca was not one of his best recordings and suffered from an unduly staid Fiorilligi (Lorengr).

with each note carefully suspended in position, can turn to affronted male rage in Act II. Ferrando and Fiorilligi are always the stormy petrels of the love game.

The beginning of Act II is filled with the ripple of feminine laughter as Despina tells her mistresses about the real world. Adelina Scarabelli has a bit of edge to her tone, but this contrasts well with the sisters trilling away like a couple of lovebirds.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

RACHMANINOV Sonata No 2, etc Zoltan Kocsis

JUST as, in the case of Bartók, Zoltan Kocsis has been pitting his own imagination and intelligence to thrilling effect against the composer's own from manuscript and piano roll, so now he turns to Rachmaninov.

So deeply thought out is his performance that he has the freedom to unfold the music as if it were an improvisation. This is so vital in Rachmaninov where, as Kocsis himself puts it, "the work and its interpretation are all of a piece".

RACHMANINOV *Compte Songs Vol 1* Leiferkus/Rodgers/Shelley, etc

NEW ON VIDEO: Paris with no heart; Audrey Hepburn on the brink of stardom; *Usual Suspects* in the clear



Scoring no points: Billy Crystal plays a smug, selfish basketball referee but fails to make the audience care about a curiously moribund love story in *Forget Paris*

FORGET PARIS

Columbia TriStar, 12, 1995 CAN Billy Crystal and Debra Winger make their love affair stick? Do we care? Not much, partly because the stars never seem to be two hearts beating as one.

ating, though you still need the patience of Job to survive two and a half hours of extreme whimsy, pastiche thriller and visits from the likes of Mikhail Gorbachev, Peter Falk and Lou Reed.

bound she leapt from British bit-parts to Hollywood stardom and an Oscar.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS PolyGram, 18, 1995

JOHN Special Agent Chazz Palminteri as he tries to disentangle the threads that bind five criminals and lead to a dockside fire and 21 dead bodies.

THE SLINGSHOT *Connaisseur*, 12, 1995 AKE SANDGREN'S oddball Swedish film whisks us to Stockholm in the 1920s, where a sensitive but resilient child suffers school persecution, family strife, and peers up his first female skirt.

FARAWAY, SO CLOSE!

Connaisseur, 15, 1994 WIM WENDERS'S sequel to *Wings of Desire*. Some stretches are capti-

I LOVE A MAN IN UNIFORM *Tartan*, 18, 1993 MILD bank clerk and part-time actor becomes a television cop and takes his uniform home. Out on the streets in black leather, he finds the power life otherwise denied him.

ROMAN HOLIDAY *CIC U*, 1953 GREGORY PECK'S American newspaperman falls for a princess in disguise: a slim, whimsical story, once earmarked for Frank Capra and fattened up by director William Wyler, who insisted on shooting in Rome and never lets us forget it. But it is an admirable showcase for young Audrey Hepburn. In one

song series whose first volume promises much. Just as Rachmaninov himself chose his poets with great care, so here each singer is sensitively cast and responds with real conviction to each of the songs as they unfold in chronological order.

charge of the very first song, Rachmaninov's sombre *Lermontov setting*, *At the gates of the holy cloister*. Then, as the recital moves on through the early Op 4 songs, Maria Popescu's mezzo-soprano warms to the half-lights of *Morning*. The six songs of Op 8, with their settings of Ukrainian and German poetry, bring an elusive *Dream* from Alexandre Naoumenko's mordant, slightly nasal tenor; while Joan Rodgers offers an anguished *Prayer*. Pianist Howard Shelley comes into his own in the challenging accompaniments of the Op 14 songs, painting a pulsating backdrop for Naoumenko's *Summer Nights* and Rodgers's *Spring Torrents*.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No 4* RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Capriccio spagnolo* Saito Kinen Orchestra/Ozawa

The orchestra's defining characteristic is discipline. When combined with Ozawa's meticulous ear for detail - evident too in his recording of Tchaikovsky's Fifth with the Berlin Philharmonic last year - the result is the last word in precision.



Ozawa: exhilarating sweep

the brass rings out with an incisive edge, the Fate motif scything thrillingly through the texture. The phrasing of the Andantino is similarly trim and neat, almost to a fault: the effect is slightly prettified, where the folk-tune contours call for something a touch more earthy.

The coupling is Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio spagnolo*, in which orchestra and conductor do full justice to the brilliant colours and lively Spanish rhythms for which the piece is famous.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

THE BLUETONES *Expecting to Fly* Superior Quality Recordings/ASM

to a retro formula of guitars, drums and voices, their debut album, *Expecting to Fly*, has a comfortably familiar sound. On songs such as *Things Change* and *Time & Again*, Adam Devlin's guitar playing encompasses the chiming grace of Johnny Marr and the choppy aggression of Pete Townshend, while singer Mark Morriss plies his tales of romantic whimsy with a clean-cut voice, making a pleasing virtue out of his long, southern-English vowels.

Disillusionment is a recurring theme - "I'm not the same person I was a year ago/You cut me deeply and the scars still show" - but, typically, it is music that turns a downcast mood into something uplifting. Their fondness for pop melody, and the care with which the songs are written and arranged, means that they stray, at times, a little too close to the bland tunefulness of the Beautiful South. But on harder numbers, such as the ambitious *Talking to Clarry* and *Clay Some Rag* (imagine the Stone Roses with a proper singer), there is a rare brilliance at work.

Brotherhood *MJJ Music/Epic 481694* TAJ (22), Taryll (20) and TJ Jackson (17) are the three TJs in 3T. Their Dad is Tito Jackson, formerly of the Jackson Five/Jacksons, which means that their uncle is none other than the King of Pop himself. Membership of a show-business dynasty undoubtedly has its advantages. Not only are the boys - none of whom looks a day over 15 - signed to Michael Jackson's MJJ label, but he has also contributed a new song, *Why*, to their album, *Brotherhood*.

However, the intensity of the grooming process, which effectively began at birth, and the burden of expectation on their slender shoulders is such that any spark of youthful innocence or spontaneity has been rigorously excised from this debut. The result is a sophisticated but rather stodgy collection of mature soul ballads and jellow swingbeat grooves that have been polished to dull perfection. Uncle Michael sings with the boys on *Why*, an insipid, orchestrated ballad that addresses such big ques-

tions as "Why does Wednesday come after Tuesday?", and his involvement alone will guarantee that this album will sell. But their tendency to play safe means that, despite their obvious talent, the TJs sound as if they have been catapulted into an early middle-age.

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE

The Riverboat Song *MCA/MCS 12 40214* A BAND that most observers assumed were destined for the scrapheap after their first album flopped in 1992, Ocean Colour Scene have mounted a remarkable comeback. Guitarist Steve Cradock continues to hold down his day job in Paul Weller's band, and the revitalised Scene have made the most of the connection, securing the services of both Brendan Lynch, producer of Weller's *Wild Wood* and *Stanley Road* albums, and Weller himself in a cameo role, playing the organ. But the lion's share of the



Ocean Colour Scene: return

credit for this great single belongs to the group itself. Tooled up with an authentic 1960s rock sound, *The Riverboat Song* boasts an insistent, hustling rhythm whipped along by splashes of waltz-waltz guitar and a hyperactive pair of maracas. "I see trouble up the road," Simon Fowler sings in his high, throaty voice, as neurotic squalls of rattle and hum nip at the heels of the tune. Packed with energy, it is a song that will surely set them back on the road to greater things.

BEN WEBSTER

Music For Loving *Verve 52774 (2 CDs)* DOES an improviser as lush and melodic as Ben Webster require any help from an orchestral arranger? In an ideal world, he would be left to explore *Chelsea Bridge* or *Early Autumn* in the company of an unadorned rhythm section with, say, Ray Edson blowing a wry obbligato.

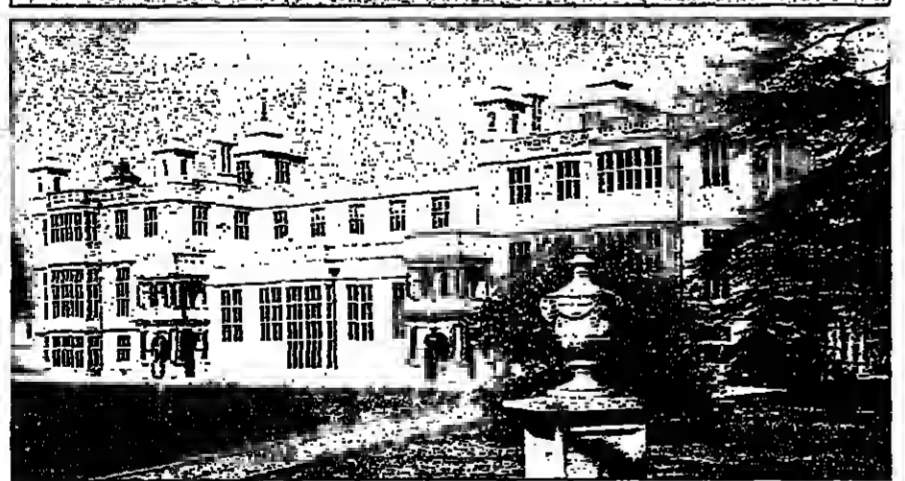
Most writing for strings resolutely refuses to do anything so inebrious as swing, so it would be natural to assume that helping Webster's saxophone in violin would have unhappy consequences. It ain't necessarily so, as this assortment of mid-1950s sessions makes plain. If an orchestra must be drafted in, then Ralph Burns and Billy Strayhorn's arrangements are probably the most tasteful anyone could hope for. Seldom obtrusive or syrupy, they furnish subtle rhythmic cues and figures behind Webster's billowing tenor. That said, it still comes as a relief to reach the handful of tracks where he is matched with just Teddy Wilson, Ray Brown and Jo Jones. This decidedly off-beat double album concludes with a suave orchestral selection composed for that other distinguished Ellingtonian, Harry Carney.

FOURTH WORLD

Encounters of the Fourth World *B-W Music BWD45* WHEN they first came to Ronnie Scott's, many moons ago, Aíto Moreira's band of percussion-driven fusioners seemed on the verge of inventing a whole new Latin jazz vocabulary. As the years went by the tone grew more bombastic, the lyrical José Neto slowly turning into a big bad axe-head. By the time this live recording was made in Amsterdam, almost exactly a year ago, the hyperactivity quotient was still extremely high, but on the rare occasions when Neto throttles back, you still feel yourself in the presence of a remarkable talent.

Worth hearing \*\*\* Worth considering \*\*\*\* Worth buying

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE HISTORIC PROPERTY



Audley End House, a Jacobean mansion in Essex: one of 16 short-listed properties

The Times/NPI National Heritage Awards

Since the launch of the National Heritage Awards last autumn, readers of *The Times* have nominated more than 160 properties which they consider to be the best in the British Isles.

The awards, in association with pensions specialist NPI, now moves onto the voting stage and today we publish a voting form, right, containing the 16 short-listed finalists. You can also vote for *The Times Family Award*, by selecting a property you consider makes a special effort to entertain and inform adults and children. The winning property will be presented with a crystal trophy by Lord Inglewood, under secretary of state at the Department of National Heritage, at a gala reception in London in April. By registering your vote, you will automatically be entered into a prize draw for the chance to attend the ceremony with a guest. Coffee table books illustrating historic buildings, worth £20 each, will go to 20 runners-up. Post the voting form to: The Times/NPI National Heritage Awards, Sperr Communications, Grampian House, Meridian Gate, Marsh Wall, London E14 9XT. Closing date is Saturday, March 2, 1996.

NPI NATIONAL HERITAGE AWARDS

Form with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Day tel, and a table for voting on 16 properties and the Family Award.



## Fields of dreams become a thousand village greens

Oliver Gillie on millennium plans to establish green havens all over Britain

Elizabeth Soulsby came to Stanford in the Vale, an Oxfordshire village, by chance — and immediately fell in love. Sheep were grazing on a field in front of the church and the old manor house. It was the English rural idyll she had been searching for after spending years in Africa.

"I was struck by the beauty of the scene," says Mrs Soulsby, "and immediately felt that nothing must ever be allowed to spoil it."

She bought a house in the village, was elected to the parish council, and found that one of the first items on the agenda was how the parish could buy the field in front of the church. The asking price, then £35,000, was beyond the resources of the parish. Mrs Soulsby sought help and was referred to the Countryside Commission, which is hoping to set up a scheme with the Millennium Fund to establish 1,000 new greens in villages, towns and cities throughout the country.

Stanford in the Vale is a picture-book village with a 12th-century church and houses built of local stone — some of them thatched, others using local slate. It overlooks the Vale of White Horse, with the Downs and the ancient Ridge Way road to the south. The area is steeped in history. According to the *Wessex Chronicles*, King Alfred rode his horse in the "Western valley" — probably the valley of the

White Horse. But Stanford in the Vale is not a community of retired people wanting to preserve the old at the expense of the new. As well as traditional stone houses, there are several hundred other dwellings built by the council before and after the war, many of which are now owner-occupied. The village owns a leisure field which is used primarily by the local football club, but there is no cricket pitch.

"We are in the middle of the most beautiful countryside but there is nowhere for children to play or for old people to sit and enjoy the sunshine on a summer day," Mrs Soulsby says.

But now it looks as if the field beside the church will soon belong to the village residents. It is one of 23 "millennium greens" established by the Countryside Commission as a pilot project. The Commission hopes to obtain support from the Millennium Fund to finance 1,000 before the year 2000. The Commission is providing half of the money and looks to other sources to provide the rest. A legal agreement will be made to protect the land for future generations. If the land were to be taken over for any other purpose, such as roads or housing, equivalent land would have to be provided elsewhere in the village.

The owner of the field, Hubert Howse, has brought down his price to £27,500, and the Countryside



Top: the field in the Oxfordshire village of Stanford in the Vale that will soon belong to residents. Above: an industrial site in Dormanstown, Cleveland, will also benefit from a millennium green

Commission has agreed to provide half the cost of buying and developing the field. It will be improved by the planting of trees and a hedge. Seating will be installed at one end, where parents can wait before collecting their children from the primary school next door, and at the other end, next to the ancient manor wall, there is a raised area which might be used as a stage for plays or prize-givings.

Millennium greens will be small havens for birds, trees and hedge-row creatures, but most of all they will be havens for human beings. They are conceived as spaces where people will enjoy informal leisure

pursuits, such as kicking a ball around with their children, playing cricket, throwing frisbees or flying kites.

Many of the millennium greens will be in densely populated city areas — some dominated by industry. Areas such as Dormanstown, near Redcar, Cleveland, which is situated midway between the former Dorman Long's steelworks (now British Steel) and ICI's Wilton works. Dormanstown was built in the 1920s as a garden city — a brave attempt to make the area attractive. But either the planners lost confidence, or ran out of money, because many of the trees that were

supposed to line the wide avenue roads were never planted.

Now Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council is planning to create a millennium green on a space where old houses have been cleared. The site will be landscaped and planted with native trees, shrubs and wild flowers, which will defy the maze of pipework and chemical storage tanks a few hundred yards away. The green will provide a safe play area for children and a gateway to the proposed Cleveland community forest.

Walking south from the green at Dormanstown, a hiker crosses

farmland soon to be forest and can follow an old bridle track past Lazenby bank up to the Exton Hills, where there are views of the North Sea to the east. To the south there is open country leading to the North Yorkshire Moors — an area of wilderness stretching 25 miles to the ruins of Rievaulx Abbey in the south and Robin Hood's Bay in the east.

Whether or not millennium greens in the legal sense will, it seems, be a matter for local people to decide. The law allows the greens to be used for agricultural shows for up to 12 days a year and, if the town or village has a right to have a market, they might also be used for stalls selling crafts.

The land for several of the millennium greens has been donated by local authorities. However, these authorities sometimes don't want areas which they may intend to develop for housing to be tied up as village greens. It took Jim Briggs and his friends in Aldwick, near Bognor Regis, West Sussex, eight years to get a piece of land owned by Arun District Council registered as a village green. The land at Aldwick was a meadow left open when surrounding land was developed for private housing in 1967. As required by the Town and Country Planning Act, the meadow was destined to become the property of the local authority.

Following administrative delays, however, it was not taken over by the council until 1987, by which time it had been used by residents for leisure purposes for 20 years.

Local people applied for the land to be recognised as a village green but were opposed by Arun Council, which wished to retain it as a realisable asset. After the first application failed, local people took advice from the Open Spaces Society and, in a second application four years later, evidence of 20 years leisure use of the meadow was accepted and it was registered as a village green.

The advantage of registration is that it confers certain rights of use for recreation which do not alter with a change of ownership, and it reduces the chances of the land being used for building development. Some 33 new greens throughout England have been registered since 1990, when it became easier because a 20-year period had elapsed since the Commons Registration Act. Although most of the planned new greens will be only a few acres in size, it reverses the trend of the past 200-300 years, which has seen common land steadily enclosed by private owners.

● *The Countryside Commission has an information pack for anyone interested in applying for funds for a millennium green. Write to: Millennium Greens, The Countryside Commission, 71 Kingsway, London WC2E 8BS.*

● *Getting Greens Registered — a guide to law and procedure, £9.95 inc p&sp, is available from the Open Spaces Society, 25a Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2BA.*

SAILING: If you don't know an injector from an impeller, engine lessons may save your life

## Rescue for the mechanically challenged

If, like me, you go to sea to sail, to use the power of the wind and the tide, you probably regard the engine on your boat with a mixture of awe and trepidation.

Without it you can't get in and out of marinas; picking up moorings, especially in a tide-way, can be challenging; and when the wind dies and you are trying to get to work on Monday, you might just be facing one of those embarrassing calls to the office. And, crucially, engines can help to get us out of trouble.

Despite the degree to which we depend on engines, many sailors — experienced ones at that — know little about them.

You only have to ask the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). Its statistics for lifeboat call-outs reveal that 34 per cent of all launchings to sail and powered pleasure-craft result from simple mechanical failures, and the proportion of those call-outs is increasing every year.

As long as we pay our dues to the AA or RAC, we can get away with almost total ignorance of what is going on under our car bonnet. But in the middle of the North Sea, it's just you, your spares and your engine.

As a former dinghy sailor with a distaste for mechanical matters, I needed an introduction to the diesel on my boat, *Nutcracker*. Having spent £5,000 on a new Yanmar three-cylinder during her refit last year, and a pile more having it put in, I had no desire to wreck it through ignorance.

The Essex Sailing School in Jaylandsea, on the southern

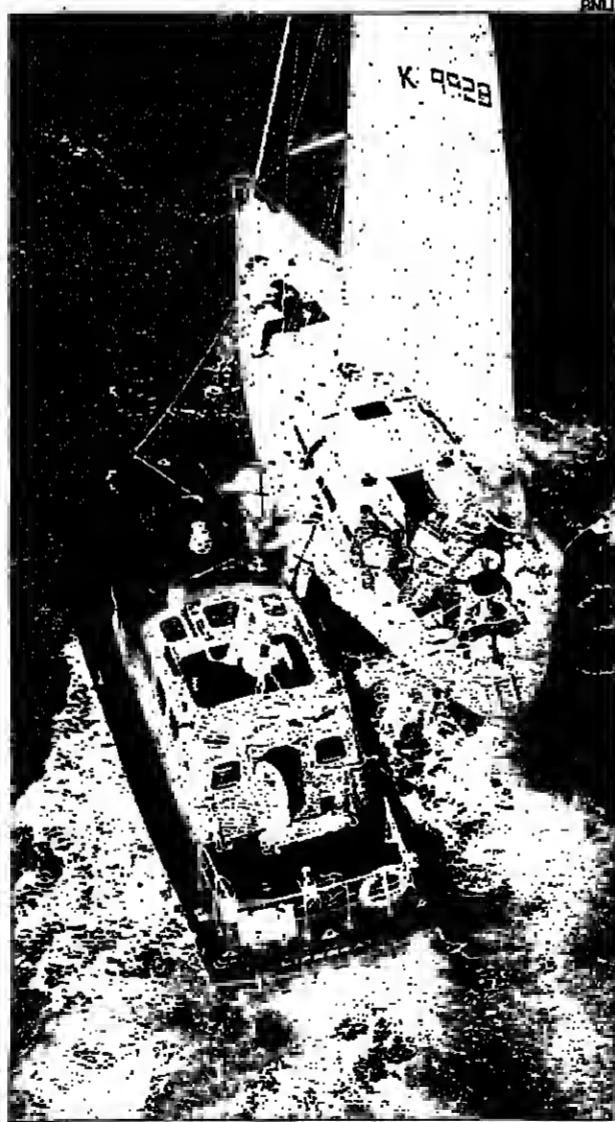
shores of the Blackwater estuary, is among many schools offering Royal Yachting Association-recognised one-day diesel courses for recreational sailors. The school runs around six courses a year, usually for about six students at a time, at £56 a head.

Mike Tyrrell, the school's principal and an engineer, believes the course is imperative for anyone embarking on the RYA's navigation and general seamanship programmes, such as the Day Skipper certificate. The aim is to give people an idea of their engine system, to avoid faults that they themselves have caused, to show which spare parts to carry and how to solve simple problems at sea — so avoiding the need to go to a workshop or to call out a lifeboat.

On my day at the school there were two other "students", Anne and Malcolm Gilding, who have owned boats for years but, like so many of us, had found a long list of reasons to put off getting to know their heat exchanger from their manifold.

It was an incident near their holiday home at Puerto Andratx in Majorca, where they keep their *Laud* — a 21ft, double-ended traditional Spanish fishing boat — that finally persuaded them to go back to school. A young couple in a speedboat suffered engine failure within sight of land but, unable to mend it themselves, were blown offshore and spent three days at sea, suffering severe dehydration, before they were picked up by a fishing boat.

"I've always put it off," said



Many lifeboat call-outs are for simple mechanical failure

Mr Gilding as he settled down to examine the school's demonstration engine block, complete with cut-away sections for ease of access and viewing. "But I'm glad we've got round to it. All our friends laughed when I said I was taking my wife on a diesel-engine course, but I could be ill or have an accident on the boat. I think the more Anne knows, the better."

Under Mr Tyrrell's tutelage, we spent a surprisingly inter-

esting day getting to grips with the "suck, squeeze, bang, blow" cycle of the diesel engine, the mysteries of direct or indirect injection, the vital role of oil in the engine, the fuel system and how to bleed it, the cooling system and the general dos and don'ts of marine engines.

Did you know, for example, (I didn't) that diesels are best put to work immediately they are turned on, and that warming them up in neutral for 20

minutes before you leave your mooring does them more harm than good? It's when you return after sailing that it should be left to tick over for a while before you turn it off.

By the end of the day we were talking about fine filters, injectors, the gallery, impellers and the governor. We even had tricky test questions such as: "If the thermostat is stuck in the closed position, what part of the engine would overheat first?" Answer: the cylinder head.

Mrs Gilding admitted that it was a lot more fun and easier to understand than she had expected. She also found it very useful. "I've always been a little wary about the engine. I wouldn't really know what to do. This has given me more confidence. Serious things can go wrong, but if it's just a hose going or something simple, then we should be able to cope."

The RYA hopes that more and more people will attend the courses, not only to cut down the number of lifeboat call-outs to boats with often minor mechanical failure but to improve general standards of seamanship.

Unfortunately, though, it seems only the more conscientious types are doing the course. As John Hart, for 15 years coxswain of the Barry Lifeboat, who helped to devise the course, put it: "The most irresponsible people who need instruction are the ones who don't do the course. There's no allowing for the lunatic few whatever courses you put together or legislation you bring to bear."

EDWARD GORMAN

● For information about RYA-recognised engine courses, contact Jane Kookane at the RYA on 01703 622454. Similar courses are also provided by leading engine manufacturers, including Volvo Penta (01923 228544); Perkins (01733 582408); and Sabre (01202 893730).

Next week: the superyacht

Feather report

## Beware the invasion of the berry snatchers

I MUST say some more about the waxwing, for the irruption of these birds into the British Isles this winter has proved to be quite spectacular — the biggest for 30 years. Flocks of 100 or more have been recorded in many parts of Britain, besides numerous smaller flocks and single birds. They have been driven down from Scandinavia and northern Russia by the shortage of rowan berries.

Most of them have been seen in town gardens or in hawthorn hedges on suburban waste ground. The reports of them on the Birdline telephone service (see below) have been quite comic — "behind Saleway", "in the garden of No 79", "near the Little Chef". This is no doubt because the hawthorn berries have already been largely stripped from the bushes by blackbirds and thrushes in the countryside, whereas in towns many cotoneasters and privet berries are still to be had.

I SAW a flock of six at Ware in Hertfordshire last week, and it might be useful if I indicate what to look out for. They are tame, but they do lurk in the middle of hawthorns, rather than display themselves on the outside branches, so do peer into any berry-bearing tree. If you get so much as a glimpse of one, you will recognise it immediately. They are about as big as starlings and their head-crest is unmistakable. Sometimes, I noticed, it is streaked back like a wedge, but at other times it looks fluffy.

They are pinkish birds, though they can seem quite dull in poor light. The head and crest often have a red glow, and the black eye-stripe and bib are conspicuous. The wing and white marks on the wing are small, and the red blob like sealing wax on the wing is hard to see. But the



Waxwings catch snowflakes

yellow tip to the tail looks golden when the sun shines through it.

All the members of the flock sit quietly together in the bushes; then there is a flurry of berry-snatching, after which they all subside again. I

saw a pair sitting side by side like doves, even touching bills once. Their thin trill is distinctive, but not ear-catching. They eat snow, and have even been seen flying out to pick up a falling snowflake in the air.

In flight, their grey rumps are conspicuous. They are said to fly like starlings, but their undulations reminded me more of great spotted woodpeckers. They are still around everywhere, but on the move.

DERWENT MAY

● *What's about: Birders — listen for the song of the chaffinch in wooded gardens and parks. Twitchees — a pine bunting at Halesowen, West Midlands; a long-billed dowitcher at Copperhouse Creek, Cornwall. Details from Birdline 0891 702222. Calls cost 30p a minute cheap rate. 30p at all other times.*

When is a shop not a shop?

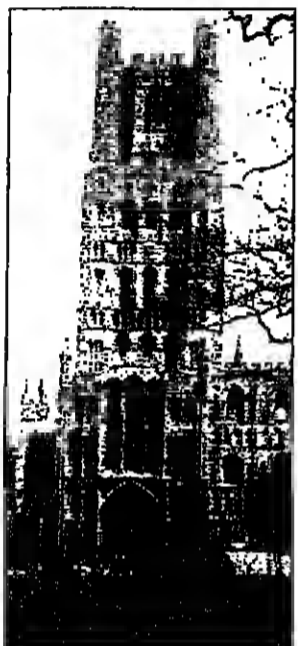


Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

BRITAIN: The haunting landscape of the Fens; ideas for entertaining children at half term ...

Winter in waterland

Imagine a landscape so flat and featureless that even the hedges stand out. Picture the setting sun hanging in an endless sky. Then look towards the horizon to see an 11th-century cathedral seemingly floating above the fields.



The Normans started work on Ely Cathedral in 1081

England's richest area of farmland and altering the landscape for ever. But still there is a sense that nature will have the last word.

tinues traditional Fenland practices here, cutting sedge, reed and peat and using them wherever possible. Walk around the reserve, then into the surrounding farmland to see how the area has changed since drainage.

Wicken Fen attracts a good variety of wildlife but serious bird-watchers must visit the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's centre at Welney. A third of Europe's wild swans winter here on the Ouse Washes beside the Hundred Foot Drain, one of two parallel canals cut out in the 17th century to divert the course of the Ouse.

From November to February you can see the swans under floodlight. At the height of winter you might see 3,000 of them. Go at dusk to watch them in flight, returning to their night-time resting-places.

But wherever you go in the Fens you are always drawn back to Ely. The city was founded in 673 AD by St Etheldreda, daughter of the East Anglian king, who received the island as a dowry.

Her first husband died, her second marriage failed, and she retired to a hilltop retreat to establish an abbey on the site of today's cathedral.

Hereafter the Wakes used Ely as his last line of defence against William the Conqueror. But the Normans won, took the town, and in 1081 began building the cathedral - the main reason for visiting Ely today.

The highlight is the 14th-century octagonal lantern, 400 tons of lead and wood, providing a night-time beacon visible for miles. But I have a soft spot for the Lady Chapel, England's largest, completed by Alan of Walsingham in 1322. Beheaded saints, defaced during the Reformation, line the walls; childish images of Adam and Eve adorn the ceiling.

The cathedral contains an excellent stained glass museum. Its exhibits from 1240 (the oldest glass in England) to whimsical modern pieces, all well-lit, carefully explained and in a lovely setting.

TONY KELLY

- Where to stay: Lamb Hotel, Ely (01353 663574) - double B&B, £70.
Black Hostelry - medieval monks' inn in grounds of Ely Cathedral (01353 662612).
Double B&B, £49.
Where to eat: Dominiques, St Mary's Street, Ely (01353 662011) - good snack lunches plus three-course evening meals.
Wed-Sat 7-9pm, £16.50. No smoking/credit cards.
Old Fire Engine House, Palace Green, Ely (01353 662582) - traditional English restaurant with org gallery. Three-course meal approx £23.

Monsters, masks and myths

LONDON

Masque in Action: Members of the Seventeenth Century Heritage Centre re-enact the masque from the days of the Stuart court. The Banqueting House, Whitehall (0171-930 4179). Feb 21-24, 10am-4pm. Adults £3, children £2.

Brer Rabbit Visits Africa: More classic tales using marionettes. Puppet Theatre Barge, Little Venice, Blomfield Road, W9 (0171-249 0874). Daily, Feb 17-25, 3pm. Adults £5.50, children £5.

Eighteenth Century London Workshop: Explore how people lived and try crafts used to make objects in the home. Geoffrey Museum, Kingsland Road, E2 (0171-739 9893). Feb 20-23, 10.30am-12.45pm. Feb 24, 10.30am-3pm. Free but donations requested for materials. (6)

The Minibeasts What happens when a little girl is struck by the size of an insect? Also Thumbelina's puppet show for three to five-year-olds. Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, SW9 (0181-533 4889). Feb 8 to Apr 6. Times vary. Adults and children £6.50. (6) Thumbelina: Feb 20-24. Times vary. Adults and children £3.90.

Meet A Roman Actor and his lady who will tell you about life in Roman times. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (0171-602 3699). Feb 20-23, 10.30am-3pm. Adults £3.50, children £1.75. (6)

Cinema Club: Cartoons and other children's favourites on half-term Saturday and every weekend. The Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Every Saturday, 2.30. Adults £4. (6) children £2.50, membership £4. (6)

Drama And Crafts Workshop: Run by Stop the Clock Theatre. Includes movement, music and drama for five to seven-year-olds. Myths, Monsters and Masks for eight to ten-year-olds. BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Feb 19-23. Mornings for the younger age group, afternoons for the older. £25.50 for whole week, concessions for children of unemployed/students. (6)

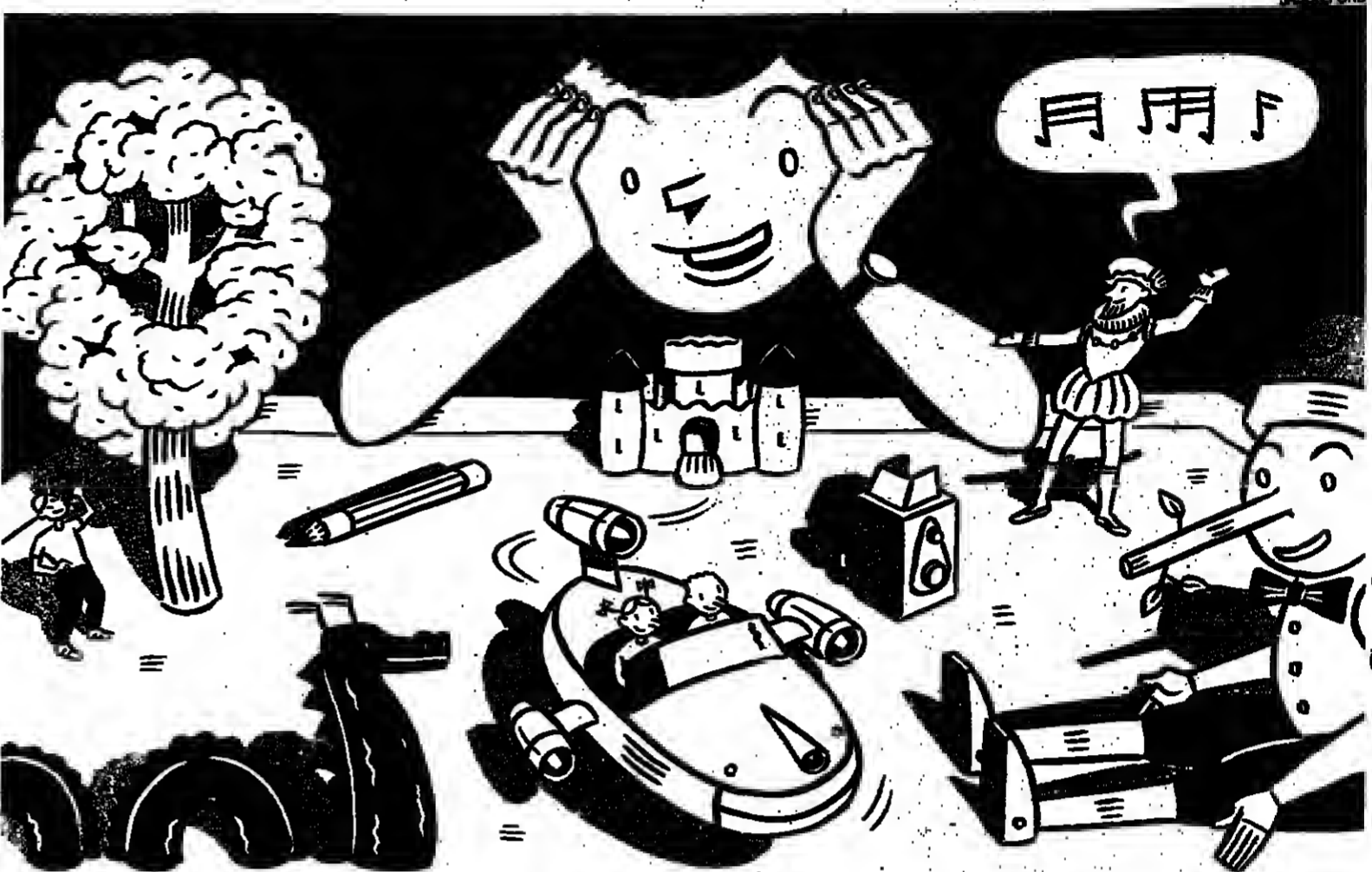
Make Totem Poles using waste material. Eight-year-olds upwards. The workshop will tour villages in the north of the county. Details of times and places (01296 555210). Feb 19-23 from 10am-3pm. £4. (6)

Youth Dance Project: Learn to dance with the Aletia Collins Dance Company whatever your ability. For 12-year-olds upwards. Aylesbury Grammar, Walton Street (01296 555210). Feb 19-23, 10am-4pm. £20 for the four-day course. (6)

Children's Week: Steam trains and farm park. Midland Railway Centre, Butterley Station, Ripley, Derby (01773 747674). Feb 19-23, daily 11.15am-4.15pm. Adults £7.95. Two children free with each adult. (6) (but ring first).

Keep Busy: Roller-skating rink, dry ski slope, crazy golf, mountain bikes and more. Parkside Holidays, Warmwell Leisure Resort, near Weymouth (01929 224 0500). £150 for seven nights in one-bedroom lodges, sleeping up to four. (6) (but ring first).

Mr Men in Music Land: Musical show for two to eight-year-olds.



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Kids Time: A three-day programme for five to 12-year-olds with drama, arts, crafts, parachute games, unicef and video filming. Stoke Mandeville Community Hall, Stoke Mandeville (01296 629993). Feb 21-23, 8.15am-3.30pm. £10 a day or £6 half day. (6) (but ring first).

Tropical Delights Varied programme about birds. Wild Fowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire (01453 890333). Feb 17-25. Different events on different days so ring first. Adults £4.20, children £2.35, under-fives free, family ticket (two adults and two children) £11. (6)

HAMPSHIRE

Beyond The North Wind: Puppet and story-telling show. Storybox Theatre, The Tower, Romsey Road, Winchester (01962 867988). Feb 11, 2pm. Adults £4, children £3. (6)

Spread Your Wings: Four-day drama workshop culminating in a show for friends and family. The Tower, Romsey Road, Winchester (01962 867988). Feb 19-22, 2pm for 7-11 year olds. £16. (6) (but ring first).

KENT

Half-term Activities: Story-telling, dressing-up and nature trails. Leeds Castle, Maidstone (01622 763400). February 17-25, 10am to 3pm. Adults £7.50, children £5. Family ticket £21 (two adults and two children). (6)

NORTHERN IRELAND

Rocky Road Show: Learn about rocks, crystals and fossils. Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Stranmillis Road, Belfast. (01232 38125). Feb 18 2-4pm, Feb 19 10am-noon and 2-4pm. Free. (6) The Courtyard Theatre, Dough Road, Newtownabbey, near Belfast (01232 848287). Feb 18, 2.30pm. Adults and children £3. (6)

OXFORDSHIRE

Curiosity: Hands-on science gallery specialising in light, colour and sound. Freeze your shadow on the shadow screen, walk into a camera and use your fingers to...

SURREY

Fantastic Mr Fox: Roald Dahl's tale about three nasty farmers out to get poor Mr Fox (See also Surrey below).

WILTSHIRE

Introduction to Black and White Photography and Printing: Non-residential two-day course for 11 to 16-year-olds on location in Bradford-on-Avon from February 13-14 (see also above).

WILTSHIRE

Introduction to Black and White Photography and Printing: Non-residential two-day course for 11 to 16-year-olds on location in Bradford-on-Avon from February 13-14 (see also above).

Children's animal workshops will be held on Feb 22-23 from 10am to 3pm. £10 per child or £3 for two or more children from the same family. Please book. Admission free. (6) (but ring first).

WILTSHIRE

Fantastic Mr Fox: Roald Dahl's 'Fox versus the Farmers' children's tale. Horsham Arts Centre, North Street, Horsham (01403 266699). Feb 20-24 at 1pm and 4.30pm. Adults and children, £3.75. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Artshop: Learn how to make candles, masks, puppets, or join the 'alternative orchestra' for budding musicians. Suitable for five to eight-year-olds. Weymouth Arts Centre, Bulth Walk, Poole (01982 552353). Feb 19-23. Prices vary according to classes but the average morning session is £3. (6)

WILTSHIRE

The Snow Queen: A family play with puppets. Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth (01970 623232). February 17 at 2.30pm. Adults and children £2.95. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Mechanical Mayhem: A hands-on science exhibition. Learn how cogs work and how to weigh sand. Maritime and Industrial Museum, Swansea (01792 650351). Feb 2-April 28. Admission free. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

WILTSHIRE

Identify fossils: Learn to use a microscope to play computer zoology games and more. Natural History Centre exhibition at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Suitable for seven-year-olds upwards (0114276 8588). Adults £1.50, children £1. (6)

An Inaugural Offer
7 nights in Costa Rica, the Land of Wonders, from £525.00
A glorious climate, beautiful landscapes, lakes, rivers, hot volcanoes, exotic flora, wildlife, friendly people, national parks, sophisticated lifestyle, peaceful beaches beyond belief and a true paradise on earth. Costa Rica is without doubt the most exciting destination in travel today.

Answers from page 25
HAMEL
(c) A wether, from Afrikaans, Dutch hamel, German hammel a castrated ram. 'Would your father have let me die rather than take a hamel from the flock of a rich, lazy Boer, who never counts his sheep?'
NANCY DAWSON
(a) A sailor's dance or song; later a nancy-boy. 'Nancy Dawson is a name for a molly, an effeminate youth, apathetic, etc. The original Nancy Dawson was a noted prostitute, on whom there is a song still current among sailors.'

40 years of listening carefully to Saga customers has taught us what our holidaymakers expect. That's why so many customers book with us again. Our special interest holidays range from ballroom dancing and golf, to quieter pastimes such as bridge and painting. Each is hosted by an experienced professional, accommodating everyone from novice to the expert. So now your holiday can really be dedicated to just what you love doing. If you are aged 50 or over, call our 24-hour request line for your new holiday brochures.
FREE 0800 300 456
Ext 3026
SAGA
FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

I didn't realise being energetic could be so relaxing
Grahams
Mr R
26 St North
Dorset
Please return to: Saga Holidays Ltd., FREEPOST (NT2710), Pezzeron X, Co. Durham SR88 1SH. You do not need a stamp.
Please send me the following holiday brochures:
United Kingdom
Hond Stay
University & College Courses
Coach Holiday Tours
Europe & the Mediterranean
Hotel Stay
Worldwide
USA/Canada
Faraway Places
Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Far East
Cruises
Ocean
River
Name (Mr/Ms/Ms)
Address
Town
County
Postcode
Tel No.
Date of Birth (dd) / / 19
Date of Birth (Mr, Ms) / / 19
Do you currently receive brochures from Saga? Yes No
Saga Holidays Ltd. would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and any other information as these companies to enable them to do so.
DHF41





## Fields of dreams become a thousand village greens

Oliver Gillie on millennium plans to establish green havens all over Britain

Elizabeth Soulsby came to Stanford in the Vale, an Oxfordshire village, by chance — and immediately fell in love. Sheep were grazing on a field in front of the church and the old manor house. It was the English rural idyll she had been searching for after spending years in Africa.

"I was struck by the beauty of the scene," says Mrs Soulsby, "and immediately felt that nothing must ever be allowed to spoil it."

She bought a house in the village, was elected to the parish council, and found that one of the first items on the agenda was how the parish could buy the field in front of the church. The asking price, then £35,000, was beyond the resources of the parish. Mrs Soulsby sought help and was referred to the Countryside Commission, which is hoping to set up a scheme with the Millennium Fund to establish 1,000 new greens in villages, towns and cities throughout the country.

Stanford in the Vale is a picture-book village with a 12th-century church and houses built of local stone — some of them thatched, others using local slate. It overlooks the Vale of White Horse, with the Downs and the ancient Ridge Way road to the south. The area is steeped in history. According to the *Wessex Chronicles*, King Alfred rode his horse in the "Western valley" — probably the valley of the

White Horse. But Stanford in the Vale is not a community of retired people wanting to preserve the old at the expense of the new. As well as traditional stone houses, there are several hundred other dwellings built by the council before and after the war, many of which are now owner-occupied. The village owns a leisure field which is used primarily by the local football club, but there is no cricket pitch.

"We are in the middle of the most beautiful countryside but there is nowhere for children to play or for old people to sit and enjoy the sunshine on a summer day," Mrs Soulsby says.

But now it looks as if the field beside the church will soon belong to the village residents. It is one of 23 "millennium greens" established by the Countryside Commission as a pilot project. The Commission hopes to obtain support from the Millennium Fund to finance 1,000 before the year 2000. The Commission is providing half of the money and looks to other sources to provide the rest. A legal agreement will be made to protect the land for future generations. If the land were to be taken over for any other purpose, such as roads or housing, equivalent land would have to be provided elsewhere in the village.

The owner of the field, Hubert Howse, has brought down his price to £27,500, and the Countryside



Top: the field in the Oxfordshire village of Stanford in the Vale that will soon belong to residents. Above: an industrial site in Dormanstown, Cleveland, will also benefit from a millennium green

Commission has agreed to provide half the cost of buying and developing the field. It will be improved by the planting of trees and a hedge. Seating will be installed at one end, where parents can wait before collecting their children from the primary school next door, and at the other end, next to the ancient manor wall, there is a raised area which might be used as a stage for plays or prize-givings.

Millennium greens will be small havens for birds, trees and hedgerow creatures, but most of all they will be havens for human beings. They are conceived as spaces where people will enjoy informal leisure

pursuits, such as kicking a ball around with their children, playing cricket, throwing frisbees or flying kites.

Many of the millennium greens will be in densely populated city areas — some dominated by industry. Areas such as Dormanstown, near Redcar, Cleveland, which is situated midway between the former Dorman Long's steelworks (now British Steel) and ICI's Wilton works. Dormanstown was built in the 1920s as a garden city — a brave attempt to make the area attractive. But either the planners lost confidence, or ran out of money, because many of the trees that were

supposed to line the wide avenue roads were never planted.

Now Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council is planning to create a millennium green on a space where old houses have been cleared. The site will be landscaped and planted with native trees, shrubs and wild flowers, which will defy the maze of pipework and chemical storage tanks a few hundred yards away. The green will provide a safe play area for children and a gateway to the proposed Cleveland community forest.

Walking south from the green at Dormanstown, a hiker crosses

farmland soon to be forest and can follow an old bridle track past Lazenby bank up to the Exton Hills, where there are views of the North Sea to the east. To the south there is open country leading to the North Yorkshire Moors — an area of wilderness stretching 25 miles to the ruins of Rievaulx Abbey in the south and Robin Hood's Bay in the east.

Whether or not millennium greens in the legal sense will, it seems, be a matter for local people to decide. The law allows the greens to be used for agricultural shows for up to 12 days a year and, if the town or village has a right to have a market, they might also be used for stalls selling crafts.

The land for several of the millennium greens has been donated by local authorities. However, these authorities sometimes don't want areas which they may intend to develop for housing to be tied up as village greens. It took Jim Briggs and his friends in Aldwick, near Bognor Regis, West Sussex, eight years to get a piece of land owned by Arun District Council registered as a village green. The land at Aldwick was a meadow left open when surrounding land was developed for private housing in 1967. As required by the Town and Country Planning Act, the meadow was destined to become the property of the local authority.

Following administrative delays, however, it was not taken over by the council until 1987, by which time it had been used by residents for leisure purposes for 20 years.

Local people applied for the land to be recognised as a village green but were opposed by Arun Council, which wished to retain it as a realisable asset. After the first application failed, local people took advice from the Open Spaces Society and in a second application four years later, evidence of 20 years leisure use of the meadow was accepted and it was registered as a village green.

The advantage of registration is that it confers certain rights of use for recreation which do not alter with a change of ownership, and it reduces the chances of the land being used for building development. Some 33 new greens throughout England have been registered since 1990, when it became easier because a 20-year period had elapsed since the Commons Registration Act. Although most of the planned new greens will be only a few acres in size, it reverses the trend of the past 200-300 years, which has seen common land steadily enclosed by private owners.

● *The Countryside Commission has an information pack for anyone interested in applying for funds for a millennium green. Write to: Millennium Greens, The Countryside Commission, 71 Kingsway, London WC2B 6ST.*

● *Getting Greens Registered — a guide to law and procedure. £9.95. Available from the Open Spaces Society, 25a Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2BA.*

SAILING: If you don't know an injector from an impeller, engine lessons may save your life

## Rescue for the mechanically challenged

If, like me, you go to sea to sail, to use the power of the wind and the tide, you probably regard the engine on your boat with a mixture of awe and trepidation.

Without it you can't get in and out of marinas; picking up moorings, especially in a tide-way, can be challenging; and when the wind dies on you on a Sunday night you are trying to get to work on Monday, you might just be facing one of those embarrassing calls to the office. And, crucially, engines can help to get us out of trouble.

Despite the degree to which we depend on engines, many sailors — experienced ones at that — know little about them.

You only have to ask the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). Its statistics for lifeboat call-outs reveal that 34 per cent of all launchings to sail and powered pleasure-craft result from simple mechanical failure, and the proportion of those call-outs is increasing every year.

As long as we pay our dues to the AA or RAC, we can get away with almost total ignorance of what is going on under our car bonnet. But in the middle of the North Sea, it's just you, your spares and your engine.

As a former dinghy sailor with a distaste for mechanical matters, I needed an introduction to the diesel on my boat, *Nutcracker*. Having spent £5,000 on a new Yanmar three-cylinder during her refit last year, and a pile more having it put in, I had no desire to wreck it through ignorance.

The Essex Sailing School in Maylandsea, on the southern

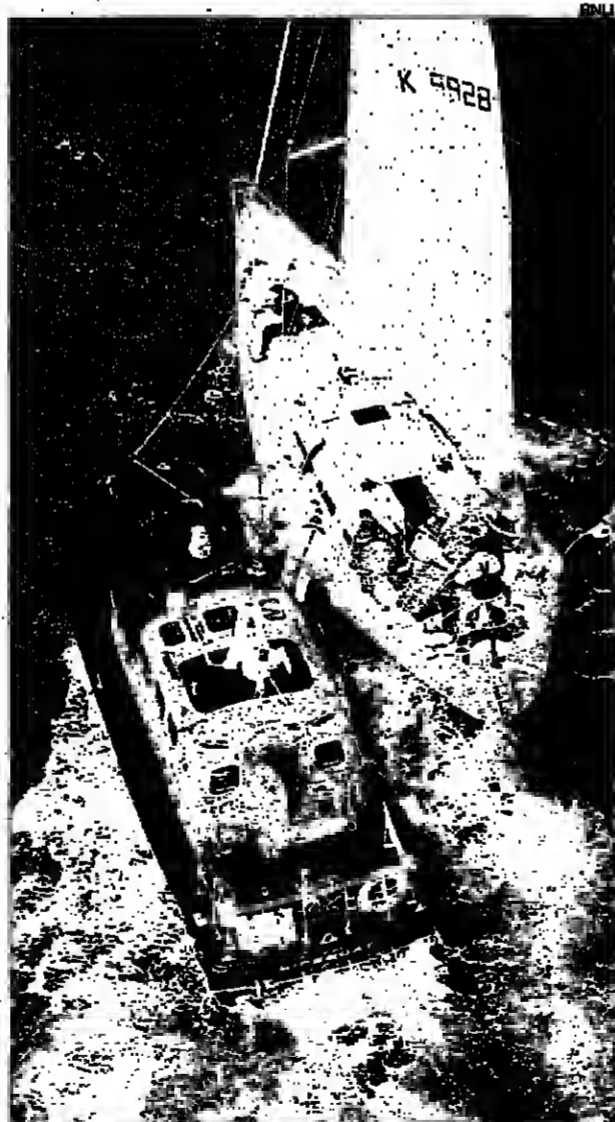
shores of the Blackwater estuary, is among many schools offering Royal Yachting Association-recognised one-day diesel courses for recreational sailors. The school runs around six courses a year, usually for about six students at a time, at £56 a head.

Mike Tyrrell, the school's principal and an engineer, believes the course is imperative for anyone embarking on the RYA's navigation and general seamanship programmes, such as the Day Skipper certificate. The aim is to give people an idea of their engine system, to avoid faults that they themselves have caused, to show which spare parts to carry and how to solve simple problems at sea — so avoiding the need to go to a workshop or to call out a lifeboat.

On my day at the school there were two other "students", Anne and Malcolm Gilding, who have owned boats for years but, like so many of us, had found a long list of reasons to put off getting to know their heat exchanger from their manifold.

It was an incident near their holiday home at Puerto Andratx in Majorca, where they keep their *Laud* — a 21ft, double-ended traditional Spanish fishing boat — that finally persuaded them to go back to school. A young couple in a speedboat suffered engine failure within sight of land but, unable to mend it themselves, were blown offshore and spent three days at sea, suffering severe dehydration, before they were picked up by a fishing boat.

"I've always put it off," said



Many lifeboat call-outs are for simple mechanical failure

Mr Gilding as he settled down to examine the school's demonstration engine block, complete with cut-away sections for ease of access and viewing. "But I'm glad we've got round to it. All our friends laughed when I said I was taking my wife on a diesel-engine course, but I could be ill or have an accident on the boat. I think the more Anne knows, the better."

Under Mr Tyrrell's tutelage, we spent a surprisingly inter-

esting day getting to grips with the "suck, squeeze, bang, blow" cycle of the diesel engine, the mysteries of direct or indirect injection, the vital role of oil in the engine, the fuel system and how to bleed it, the cooling system and the general dos and don'ts of marine engines.

Did you know, for example, (I didn't) that diesels are best put to work immediately they are turned on, and that warming them up in neutral for 20

minutes before you leave your mooring does them more harm than good? It's when you return after sailing that it should be left to tick over for a while before you turn it off.

By the end of the day we were talking about fine filters, injectors, the gallery, impellers and the governor. We even had tricky test questions such as: "If the thermostat is stuck in the closed position, what part of the engine would overheat first?" Answer: the cylinder head.

Mrs Gilding admitted that it was a lot more fun and easier to understand than she had expected. She also found it very useful. "I've always been a little wary about the engine. I used to think in the back of my mind that if it stopped, I wouldn't really know what to do. This has given me more confidence. Serious things can go wrong, but if it's just a hose going or something simple, then we should be able to cope."

The RYA hopes that more and more people will attend the courses, not only to cut down the number of lifeboat call-outs to boats with often minor mechanical failure but to improve general standards of seamanship.

Unfortunately, though, it seems only the more conscientious types are doing the course. As John Hart, for 15 years coxswain of the Barry Lifeboat, who helped to devise the course, put it: "The most irresponsible people who need instruction are the ones who don't do the course. There's no allowing for the lunatic few whatever courses you put together or legislation you bring to bear."

EDWARD GORMAN

● For information about RYA-recognised engine courses, contact Jane Koehne at the RYA on 01703 627454. Similar courses are also provided by leading engine manufacturers, including Volvo Penta (01923 228544), Perkins (01733 582408), and Sabre (01282 89372).

Next week: the superyacht

Feather report

## Beware the invasion of the berry snatchers



Waxwings catch snowflakes

yellow tip to the tail looks golden when the sun shines through it.

All the members of the flock sit quietly together in the bushes; then there is a flurry of berry-snatching, after which they all subside again. I

saw a pair sitting side by side like doves, even touching bills once. Their thin trill is distinctive, but not ear-catching. They eat snow, and have even been seen flying out to pick up a falling snowflake in the air.

In flight, their grey rumps are conspicuous. They are said to fly like starlings, but their undulations reminded me more of great spotted woodpeckers. They are still around everywhere, but on the move.

DERWENT MAY

● *What's about: Birders — listen for the song of the chaffinch in wooded gardens and parks. Twichers — a pine bunting at Halesowen, West Midlands: a long-billed dowitcher at Copperhouse Creek, Cornwall. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 8p a minute cheap rate. Stop at all other times.*

When is a shop not a shop?



Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

ROMANTIC PARIS: When all's right with the world, the French capital has never been easier to reach...

WHERE once air travel was sophisticated, it is now uncivilised. Delays and stress come with the plane ticket. Thus, when travelling to Paris, it seems sensible to leave the roaring, drinking, toy donkey-buying populace trapped in a holding pattern above Heathrow, and take the train instead.

The Eurostar train is psychologically far less damaging than dealing with airports and ferries. There are no queues, since passports are usually checked on the train. A weekend in Paris or Brussels

has suddenly become no different, in terms of travel, from one in Yorkshire or Cornwall. The British now slip under the Channel to see major exhibitions before they come to London, or enjoy lower-priced Paris opera tickets.

The Eurostar takes three hours to Paris, and the plane 45 minutes. But if you add an hour to Heathrow by Tube, checking in, the hassle of retrieving luggage and escaping the satellites at Charles de Gaulle airport, as well as the trip in to central Paris, it is more like four.

The cheapest weekend Eurostar ticket is £59 return. £69 if you travel on a Friday, and there is no requirement to book a fortnight ahead. This compares with £69 on British Airways if you book ahead, plus an airport tax of £7, plus £20 for a taxi from Charles de Gaulle.

When you rise from the scum beneath Waterloo station into the Eurostar terminal, it is a different world. The shark-nosed TGV trains are grey, with a yellow



livery stripe. Staff in yellow and blue suits greet you in your preferred language, and help to put your bags on the train. There is a French-style café, a bureau

de change and trolleys which fit on the escalators.

In its initial stages, the service was shaky, but now 85 per cent of trains run on time. The Eurostar had its busiest weekend so far during the France-Scotland rugby international, with 17,500

passengers. Normally, many of the trains are half empty, giving one a feeling of value for money.

The food is the only let-down. In first class, at £220 return, you get a fine meal on real china featuring salmon and Belgian chocolates — but those in standard class are sadly disappointed.

Fantastes of a warm *tarte aux poireaux* (leek quiche) or even *steak frites* and a nice glass of Burgundy are crushed. The efforts of Gardner Merchant, the mass-catering company, are no better than

British Rail's. The *croque monsieur*, ordered with great anticipation, is rather dull and soggy. The wine comes in those teeny bottles, and it seems rude to order three at once.

The journey through the Tunnel itself takes 20 minutes and then the train manager announces: "We are now in France. The train is about to reach its full speed of 300kmph." The slight to the laggardly British is clear.

KATE MUIR

Happy returns in the city of light

I seldom reveal domestic intimacies but all that follows has a direct relevance. A short time ago my partner, Mary, turned 40. Albeit fresh and frolicsome, there was no denying a personality in trauma. By way of antidote, I planned a wild, romantic extravaganza, a blissful memory to comfort her on the slide to senility.

I chose Paris as a city of happy associations, superb food (culinary delights take precedence after a certain age) and with a new high-speed rail link to invoke the age of civilised travel.

We made a good start. Almost. The gleaming symbol of Anglo-French technology pulled out of Waterloo on time — stopped, and pulled back in again. A power failure, apparently. We finally got under way half an hour later. It was then that the "purser" (very posh, these trains) came on the Tannoy to announce an industrial dispute in Paris which, for reasons that were never entirely clear, prevented first-class passengers from enjoying a full breakfast menu.

Instead, we were served with a selection of what tasted like cardboard cutouts of the food we might have enjoyed if the

carriers had been working normally.

However, the journey itself was an unqualified success. A smooth and speedy excursion across the fields of southern England and northern France with a 25-minute bit in the middle which has passengers staring out into a subterranean blackness. The Channel Tunnel has nothing to show but you can't help looking at it in wonderment.

A taxi from the Gard du Nord took us to the Hôtel de Crillon on the Place de la Concorde. For the uninitiated, this is no ordinary lodging house. Other hotels may

luxury but few, if any, can aspire to its style. The only first-class hotel in Paris still under family control, it extols imperial splendour with its palatial 18th-century façade and high-ceilinged rooms stuffed with gold-painted, twiddly furniture. Modesty forbids me to specify the dimensions of our suite: suffice to say the grand piano in the corner did not look out of place.

The front view of the hotel, over the Place de la Concorde, was to be one of the finest cityscapes in Europe. The far



At night the Place de la Concorde breaks up into a riot of illumination, with vehicles racing across the square. In the background the Eiffel Tower is picked out in incandescent glory.

side of the square is bordered by the Seine and beyond is the National Assembly. Far to the left is the Pantheon, Notre Dame and the Louvre. To the right, the gold dome of Les Invalides shines like a beacon, while a little further on the same trajectory is the Eiffel Tower. At night the scene breaks up into a riot of illumination with vehicles racing all ways across the square, the pleasure boats passing sedately along the Seine and the famous landmarks picked out in incandescent glory.

With supper booked for Les Ambassadeurs, the grandest of the Hôtel de Crillon's two restaurants, we settled for a light lunch (if such a thing is to be had in Paris) at the Bofinger on the rue de la Bastille. We took the pretty route, a half-hour walk through little streets lined with galleries

selling pictures at affordable prices. It was a reminder that Paris is still the natural home for artists. They have here a market for paintings that is not restricted to chocolate-box clichés.

Parading as the oldest brasserie in Paris, the Bofinger can be a tourist trap. But the bubbling atmosphere overcomes the confusion of accents, and *fruits de mer* or *choucroute*, the two favourite dishes, taste all the better for serving under a splendid Art Deco glass dome.

The afternoon was handed over to culture. With time at a premium we avoided the big museums in favour of the easily manageable Musée National Picasso on the rue de Thorigny. While not the most outstanding of galleries devoted to a single artist (the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam

takes some beating) the pictures, many from Picasso's collection, reflect the full range of his imagination. The gallery is a beautifully covered 17th-century town, mansion, as impressive in its own way as the treasures it contains.

And so back to the Hôtel de Crillon and the feast of Les Ambassadeurs.

While Mary fixed on the *foie gras* (served warm), a sensitive digestion led me to the lobster salad. We both followed with *lapin*, as soft and delectable as the accompanying mustard sauce. The wine was a problem. I looked towards a vintage of Mary's year of birth but the 1955 Chateau Cheval Blanc St Emilion cost more than £600. There had to be a limit and this was it. Another stab at the wine list produced a 1989 Margaux at a figure some way short of a remortgage.

The ambience was formal but not inhibiting. Among the other bill-payers were several sleek, grey-haired men, who looked as if they had done well

out of business or politics, dining with elegant women half their age. The price of wine did not figure in their conversations.

The memory of a superb meal remained strong well into the next day when we tried to rebuild the appetite with a brisk walk along the Champs-Élysées. It is always a joy but particularly on a Sunday morning when the traffic is light and there is more opportunity to stand and stare. A truly diverting sight was the gloriously politically incorrect poster for the movie, *Prés-a-Porter*: six naked women marching purposefully towards the camera. Not seen in London, who would dare say that London is poorer as a

result? Me, for one. Culinary progress: continued with lunch at the Restaurant Paul, on the Place Dauphine, a small family concern, cosy in its simplicity. We ate well but not so well as to regret having to bypass the Eurostar meal on the return journey. This was because the Eurostar meal was inedible, though the champagne aperitif was welcome. We were left with the feeling that second class without free meals was better value.

Back at Waterloo, we walked out into the drizzle. There was a long queue at the taxi rank and no taxis. Happy birthday, Mary, and welcome home.

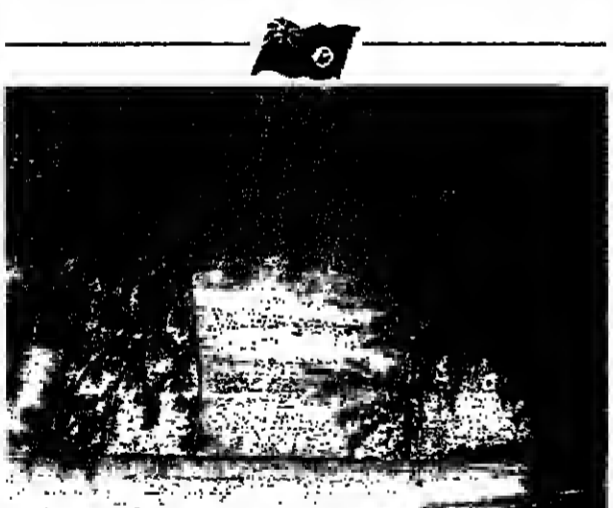
BARRY TURNER

Paris: fact file

- The author was assisted by Relais & Châteaux (0171-287 0967; fax 0171-437 0241).
□ Hôtel de Crillon, 10 place de la Concorde, 75008 Paris. There are 120 rooms and 43 suites. Rates per night for double (twin room) £13,200 (£220 to Fr4,100 (£548). Rates per night for single: Fr4,900 (£633) to Fr32,500 (£A3,300). Breakfast is from Fr155 (£20) to Fr230 (£30). For reservations contact the Hotel Crillon 00 331 44 71 15 03; fax 00 331 44 71 15 03; or Relais & Châteaux on the number above.



Venus de Milo, one of the Louvre's many treasures



Seven Mile Beach



12ft. Dive

It's hard to tear yourself away from the seclusion and splendour of Seven Mile Beach with its powder white sand lapped by a turquoise sea.

But the temptation of the world's best 12ft. dive, where you can swim with the friendly stingrays at Stringray City, may prove too great. As may the two championship golf courses or our exotic Botanic Park.

In this friendly British Crown Colony in the Caribbean, holidays are not just magical on the surface.

For free brochures, please call 0171-491 7771.



WARMED BY MORE THAN THE SUN

Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, 6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE. Telephone: 0171-491 7771. Fax: 0171-409 7773

JERSEY One Week from £178. Including direct flights, arrival transfer, breakfast & accommodation. £20 OFF ALL BOOKING PRICES. For your FREE colour brochure, see your travel agent or call us on 01235 824324.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC. Superb Austrian scenic holidays, including a tour of Sound of Music film locations, and dinner with a live show. For your FREE brochure, see your travel agent or call us on 01235 824324.

VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY. Greece Egypt Israel Syria Turkey Cyprus Jordan. Return flights from Gatwick or Manchester. Stimulating talks on fascinating ports of call and excursions. Comfortable, friendly ship - maximum 850 passengers, exclusively chartered for British passengers. Good food and lively entertainment. All cabins with private facilities. Fares from just £595 per person for twin bed cabin. For further details call us now on 01293 433041

THERE are more than 1,400 hotels to choose from in Paris. Many are delightful, others morbid. Here is a list of tried-and-tested favourites, and not too expensive. The emphasis is on charm and comfort, and the hotels include some of the most romantic nooks the city has to offer, though the cheapest are necessarily rather basic. Now is a good time to go, because many hotels are offering discounts.

Prices, given in francs, are per room per night based on two people sharing. As Weekend goes to press, the exchange rate is Fr7.57 = £1.

PRIZE COLLECTION

If a single reservations number can suit almost any Paris hotel needs, it is Compagnie Generale Immobiliere et de Service's toll-free central reservations number, 0800 895 950, for their 25 hotels (from two to four stars). Their excellence and charm are exceptions to the customary rule that company-run hotels lack personality and flair.

At the top of the range is the superbly manorial Parc Victor Hugo, Avenue Raymond-Poincaré 16e: five stately buildings around a courtyard near the Trocadero, renovated in a "British" style under the direction of Nina Campbell. It is the workplace of Joël Robuchon, France's most sought-after and admired chef. From Fr2,300.

The beautifully decorated Balfiore, between the Étoile and Trocadero on Avenue Kléber, 16e, is handily poised above the Boisière Métro station. It must appeal even to Euro-sceptics: its restaurant, Bertie's, offers only British food. From Fr1,990.

The Castille in Rue Cambon, 1er, has an Italian flavour and offers access to the Ritz's health centre. From Fr2,300. CGIS's 18 Libertel establishments — two or three-star hotels — are similarly brilliant in their own level. They include the Bellechasse (from Fr910), near the Orsay museum, the Grand Tareme (from Fr840) in the Marais, the Moolla (from Fr810) in Pigalle and the chimney



Victorianised. Terminis Nord, which offers huge rooms at relatively small prices (Fr500-Fr675), right beside Eurostar's Paris terminal.

IDIOSYNCRATIC CHARM. The Hôtel du Jeu de Paume: 5 Rue St Louis-en-l'Île (43 26 14 18; fax 40 46 02 76). A stunning discovery in what was the royal tennis court on the Île St Louis: a miracle of glass, timbers and hanging galleries. The rooms (from Fr795) are light, airy and delightful.

Saint-Merry: 78, Rue de la Verrière, 4e (42 78 14 15; fax 40 29 06 82). A gothic riot, installed in the presbytery of the Eglise St-Merry and fitted out in darkly ecclesiastical style. Fr400-Fr950.

Vieux Paris: 9 Rue Cit-le-Coeur, 6e (43 54 41 66; 43 26 00 15). Louis XI Left Bank

building in a quiet alley near the Seine. Fr990-Fr1470.

Terrass' Hôtel: 12-14 Rue Joseph de Maistre, 18e (46 06 72 85). Overlooking Montmartre cemetery. The roof-terrace restaurant has a terrific view over Paris. Fr930-Fr1,230.

Saint-Grégoire: 43 Rue de l'Abbé-Grégoire, 6e (45 48 23 23). Near Montparnasse, it has a yellow and pink decor, nice old furniture, with breakfast in a vaulted cellar. Fr760-Fr890.

Grands Hommes: 17 Place du Pantheon, 5e (46 34 19 60). The birthplace of Surrealism, comfortable and friendly. Opposite the Pantheon. Fr335-Fr760.

Hôtel de la Bretonnerie: 27 Rue Sainte-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie, 4e (48 87 77 63; fax 42 77 26 78). Enthusiastically run in a 17th-century building between the Pompidou Centre and the Marais. Most rooms big, some with beams. Fr200-Fr730.

CHEAP BUT CHEERFUL

Émeralda: 4 Rue St-Julien-le-Pauvre, 5e (43 54 19 23). The owner of this quaint little 16th-century place is a painter, sculptor and writer. Some rooms have views of Notre Dame. Fr450-Fr490.

Prima Lepie: 29 Rue Lepic, 18e (46 06 44 64). Welcoming family-run hotel in the market street of Montmartre. Breakfast in a trompe-l'oeil orangery. Fr350-Fr400.

Nesle: 7 Rue de Nesle, 6e (43 54 62 41). Exotic decor, and urban farmyard. Cash only — up front. Fr260-Fr320.

BASIC BARGAINS

Hôtel des Arts: 7 Cité Bergère, 9e. Well-run and friendly, in a quiet alley with other good cheap hotels. Fr325-Fr380.

Pratic Hôtel: 20, Rue de l'Ingénieur Keller, 15e. Clean, friendly hotel near the Eiffel Tower. Fr225-430.

Idéal: 3 Rue des Trois-Frères, 18e (46 06 63 63). Clean bargain close to the Sacré-Coeur funicular. Fr125-Fr250.

ROBIN YOUNG

... a second honeymoon in a north Devon hotel; and the smart way to score romantic Brownie points

# Rewritten version of bride's bed revisited

When we first saw the Highbullen Hotel in 1976 through a haze of champagne and confetti. Our memories are of a warm, red room, acres of wood panelling, a big brass bed and feeling slightly ruffled at being asked not to smoke in the restaurant. Wrapped up in the brand-new sensation of being married, we delighted in good food and wine, scarcely noticed the sporting facilities on offer, and felt pleasantly marooned by the floods that beset north Devon that year.

It was raining again when we revisited the hotel in Chittlehamholt last summer, this time with children in tow. It is always a little nerve-racking returning to a place you remember with affection. Perhaps our recollections were distorted by honeymoon happiness. Perhaps this was not the right place to bring children: after all the hotel does stipulate "No children under eight".

We need not have worried on either count. If anything, Highbullen has improved. A Victorian Gothic mansion full of turrets and towers, it stands in a parkland estate dotted with cottages, farms and lodges, most of which have been converted into additional guest bedrooms. Just over a year ago Highbullen acquired 85 acres of ancient woodland inhabited by wild red and roe deer, foxes and badgers. Another recent addition is an 18-mile stretch of fishing rights along the banks of the River Mole. A second restaurant added in the 1980s juts out over a wooded valley and the views, especially at sunset, are magnificent. Pious former-smokers, we now wholeheartedly endorse the restaurant's no-smoking policy.

As soon as we saw the abundance of other families with adolescent and teenage children, we relaxed. Highbullen is an informal, family-run hotel. Hugh and Pam Neil first came across the place in 1963 — "a ridiculous house full of bats and broken windows, no water and a decrepit generator" — and moved in with their two small children, both

of whom are now closely involved with the running of the hotel.

Mrs Neil, a devotee of auctions since the 1940s, has furnished many rooms at Highbullen with her "finds". The vast, ornate Victorian mahogany bed in our room cost £13 in the 1950s and the pale green, tasseled velvet curtains were a mere £3. Mrs Neil uses antique textiles she has collected to make curtains and lampshades for the bedrooms. She dries her own flowers, and every nook and cranny of the hotel is filled with dried arrangements and, in season, vases of fresh sweet peas and roses from the garden.

On our honeymoon we rarely emerged from our comfortable cocoon. A bracing ten-mile walk in pouring rain to Barnstaple (and the return trip in the back of a haystrewn



Highbullen Hotel: a Victorian Gothic mansion set in a parkland estate dotted with cottages, farms and lodges



A honeymoon bedroom: furnished with antiques

professional is available for lessons, the attitude towards golf at Highbullen is pleasantly laid-back. The Neils were happy for Helen to try to hit a ball around a few holes, an idea that would cause apoplexy at most Home Counties golf clubs. One elderly pair of ladies only plays golf during their annual visit to the hotel because they feel it's the one course where they will not be sneered at or patronised.

This relaxed attitude permeates the atmosphere at Highbullen. When the sun shines guests can eat the very good, inexpensive bar snacks (salads, sandwiches, lasagne etc) in a pretty, flower-filled courtyard. Dinner is an informal affair, so a tie and jacket are not essential. The food is pleasant (Della Smith once worked in the kitchen), and our son declared the meringue filled with clotted cream one of the best dishes he has tasted in months — but the menu is not aimed at anyone counting calories or cholesterol. Many of the main courses are served in rich sauces, vegetables come smothered in butter and the dessert list is sinful. If we were not able to recapture fully the delightful

pickup van) was our only foray into the outside world. The sporting facilities we had ignored then as a couple were now a boon for a family. We had hardly unpacked before our son and daughter had ferreted out the indoor putting green and table tennis room. Later, Helen swam like a dolphin in the deserted, kidney-shaped indoor pool while I had my toe nails painted bright red in the leisure complex and Paul finally managed

to achieve his ambition to thrash his father on the tennis court. Croquet on the lawn, such a genteel game when played by other families, proved a great hit with our offspring who revelled in sending opponents' balls plummeting down the hillside.

Rain did not deter the more intrepid guests from taking full advantage of Highbullen's offer of unlimited free golf on the nine-hole course (18 holes from this spring). Although a

self-indulgence and contentment we had enjoyed as newlyweds, this was due to family demands, not the hotel. We are currently hatching plans to farm the children out for a weekend so we can return to Highbullen on our own. Perhaps in time for our 20th anniversary.

SARA DRIVER

Highbullen Hotel, Chittlehamholt, Umbleigh, North Devon EX37 9HD (01769 540561)

The Driver family were guests of Crystal Premier Britain (0181-390 8513) which offers breaks at the hotel from £47.50 per person per night for dinner, bed and breakfast.

## VALENTINE GETAWAYS

IF HUGGY-BUN really loves Pooh-Bear and wants to demonstrate the fact on Valentine's Day, that loving message in the classified ads ought to be backed up with a weekend somewhere romantic. Romantic locations are plentiful and a phone call to one of the following places could provide a bonus — hugs and kisses — in the weeks to come. Prices are the lowest available for a weekend (two nights) bed and breakfast, per person, unless otherwise stated.

The Cotswolds have many romantic corners, and candle-lit dinners are just one feature of a romantic weekend at the Lygga Arms in Broadway (01453 852253, £225 with dinner and a bottle of champagne). Other attractions include a country club with pool and solarium.

The north Norfolk coast is full of romantic locations, from splendid towns such as King's Lynn, to pretty villages such as Wells-next-the-Sea and historic Walsingham. It can be breezy, so wrap up well and book in at the warm and hospitable Congham Hall (01485 602250, £170 with dinner), an elegant Georgian house in Hillington now converted into a first-class hotel.

MOVING north, the Gulf Stream warms Portpatrick in Wigtownshire, on the west coast of Scotland, where the small but perfect Knockinam Lodge (01776 810471, £125 with dinner) has sub-tropical gardens, a Michelin-rossetted restaurant, and a programme of champagne tastings.

All right for some, but what about people with children? No problem if you book in for a romantic weekend at Calcut Manor (01666 890391, £130 with dinner), a charming manor-house hotel near Tetbury in Gloucestershire. This hotel will look after the children while you and the Flopsy Bunny relax in one of two fine restaurants.

Other hotels offering child care include Woolley Grange (01225 864705, £97), close to ever-romantic Bath, and Ockenden Manor (01444 416111, £138 with dinner), in the ancient village of Cuckfield in West Sussex, from where adventurous lovers can take their partners ballooning, just to give the weekend a lift.

Romantic weekends require romantic locations, so cities such as York should do well, especially for those who stay at Middlethorpe Hall (01904 641241, £188 with dinner) a splendid hotel set in a William and Mary mansion.

London has plenty of corners and can be explored at leisure from small, centrally located hotels such as the Athenaeum (0800 964470, £180) — anyone who proposes while dining in the restaurant on Valentine's Day and then marries that person can have a free honeymoon stay — or Dukes Hotel in St James's (0171-491 4840, £180), close to the splendours of Royal London — and the Knightsbridge shopping area.

Finally, try one of the following: Langood Hall (01874 754525, £170 with dinner; Feb 14, £60 double room B&B) near Hay on Wye; the Maes y Neuadd Hotel (01766 780200, £130 with dinner) near Harlech in Snowdonia; the Well House (01579 342001, £144) at St Keyne, near Liskard in Cornwall; Johnstounburn House (01875 835696, £130) at Humble in East Lothian; and the Manor Hotel (01308 897616, £100 with dinner) at West Bevington on the Dorset coast. All these places offer a warm welcome, good food, attentive staff and a romantic atmosphere. After that it is up to you; most lovers would prefer it that way.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

Rendezvous, page 9



GED

# Baalbeck to Palmyra

A 7-night visit to Syria and Lebanon from £595.00

Or newly to be inaugurated flight from London Gatwick to Damascus enables us to offer a comprehensive visit to two of the most important countries of antiquity in the Middle East, which have been little-visited in the recent past. The Syrian section of the itinerary takes in the famous sites of Damascus, Crac des Chevaliers and Palmyra whilst in Lebanon we visit both the ancient sites of Baalbeck and Palmyra together with a restful two-night stay at Anle on Lebanon's Corniche. This is without doubt a wonderful opportunity to visit some of the world's most interesting sites.

We reach Damascus in the evening and spend the first night in the oldest living city in the world and the Islamic capital under the Omayyads. Exploration of the city has to be on foot, navigating the tortuous alleys of the old city is wonderful.

Palmyra is a very special place — the city has colonnaded streets and monumental arches but is perhaps most well known for the Temple of Baal.

The Lebanese are proudly aware that they stand at a historic crossroads. Behind them lies two decades of violence that claimed thousands of lives and brought the country's economy, its shattered capital, suburbs and towns, and even its people, to the edge of anarchy. The civil war and military invasion robbed Lebanon of its prized reputation as the Middle East's market place and the quintessential travel destination.

So now, at long last, it is again possible to visit this most important of countries which has had such a profound effect on the world's civilisations. Its ideal situation at the crossroads of the three continents, Africa, Europe and Asia, and its temperate climate have attracted eminent figures from history — Ramesses II, Sargon, Darius, Alexander, the Caesars, Hehagu Khan, Saladin, Tamerlane and Napoleon. Most have left their imprint, especially at the historical sites of Byblos and Baalbeck.



visiting Damascus, Palmyra, Crac des Chevaliers, the Cedars, Tripoli, Byblos, Beirut, Zhalé and Baalbeck



grottoes through which runs the Holy River. Return to the hotel via Eshden where we will have lunch at Nabeh Mar Sarkis.

Day 6 Travel south to Byblos, whose temples are 4,000 years old. It is still enclosed by ramparts dating 3000 BC and is dominated by the keep of the Frankish castle. In the afternoon a half-day city tour of Beirut will be made taking in the main points. We then proceed to our base for the next two nights, the 5-star Chouara Palace near Zhalé.

Day 7 Travel to Baalbeck 'City of the Sun'. The acropolis is the largest and best preserved corpus of Roman architecture left. Return in the late afternoon to the hotel for dinner and overnight in Zhalé.

Day 8 In the morning depart Zhalé for the Lebanese/Syrian border for Damascus airport to catch the return flight to London Gatwick airport.

### Departure

Dates & Prices	
Wednesdays - per person (in twin)	
1996	
February 21, 28	£530
March 6, 13	£530
March 20, 27	£530
April 3	£535
April 10, 17, 24	£535
May 1, 8	£535
May 15, 22	£535
Mondays - per person (in twin)	
September 2, 9, 16	£530
September 23, 30	£530
October 7, 14, 21, 28	£530
November 4, 11, 18, 25	£530
December 2, 9, 16	£530
December 23, 30	£535

**Supplements**  
per person

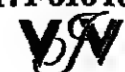
Single room ..... £175

Price includes: air travel, transfers and road transport, accommodation on half-board basis, excursions as indicated in itinerary, services of local representative throughout, travel insurance, airport taxes, visas, tipping, entrance fees. All prices are subject to change.

**Important Notes:** The sequential order of the tour may sometimes be changed in order to avoid cancellations at certain sites.

Travelers should be assured that the Company will constantly monitor the security aspects of travelling in Lebanon.

0171-616 1000



VOYAGES JULES VERNE  
21 Dorset Square,  
London NW1 6CG

Travel Promotions Ltd. ABTA 11661 ATOL 8838  
Our offices are open for telephone reservations weekdays from 9am to 5pm and weekends from 10am to 4pm. For personal visits, the office hours are 9am to 5pm weekdays only, no weekends.

**Turkey Beyond**  
BEYOND YOUR DREAMS  
Holiday indulgence with our services to you. Personal attention to clients and your needs. • Friendly and courteous. • Inexpensive with the best value ever. •  
CALL 0171 486 3388  
TURKEY AND NORTH CYPRUS

**POLAND, CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY**  
10 day holidays with half board discovering Eastern Europe  
NO DEPOSIT  
£129  
New Millennium 0121 711 4821

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
from £599  
**PENANG & SINGAPORE**  
12 nts Singapore & Penang from £599  
2 nts Singapore / 10 nights Penang  
Traders Hotel, Singapore: Excellent first class hotel. Restaurant, bar, swimming pool. Airconditioned rooms: minibar, TV, bath/shower.  
Casuarina Beach Hotel, Penang: delightful simple, first class hotel on Batu Ferringhi Beach. Restaurants, bar, lounge. Tennis. Airconditioned rooms with tea/coffee making facilities, TV, fridge, bath/shower, balcony (supp for seaview: £3 per night).

Departure dates:	Price:	Departure dates:	Price:
02, 11 Mar	£679	20, 25 Apr	£699
21, 25 Mar	£699	02, 06, 11, 18 May	£599
30 Mar, 04 Apr	£729	27 May	£619
14 Apr	£659	01, 10, 15 Jun	£619

The price includes Scheduled flights/Heathrow (Malaysia Airlines), 12 nts accom (2 nts Singapore/10 nts Penang). No meals. Transfers. Prices per person sharing twin room. Not included: UK Dept tax (£10 will be added to invoice). Local dept tax. Optional insurance: £44

To book, telephone (open daily inc. Sat/Sun):  
**01306 744300**  
Fax: 01306 744155  
ABTA V232X  
ATOL 132  
The Travel Collection  
Deceptone House, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4AZ

**CASTELLO DEL SOLE**  
ASCONA • SWITZERLAND

Paradise on earth, all summer sport facilities, Tennis, Golf, Surfing, private beach, pool, French and Italian cuisine. New air conditioned deluxe rooms. Situated in the southern part of Switzerland on "Lago Maggiore" Large private park of 80'000 sqm

Season: March 15th to November 3rd

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_

CASTELLO DEL SOLE  
CH-6612 ASCONA SWITZERLAND  
Tel. 004191/791 02 02  
Telefax 004191/792 11 18

GREECE: Matthew Bond takes his choice between solitude and socialising in the northern Sporades...

Blessed by the god of holidays

On day one I tangled with a jellyfish. On day two I trod on a sea urchin. On day three... It was time to strike a deal with whichever Greek god it is that protects Alonissos...



For the first week we stayed in a hillside villa on the outskirts of Old Alonissos, with spectacular 180-degree views towards the uninhabited island of Peristera...



Skopelos has more restaurants, beaches and people - but is more expensive - than other towns on the northern Sporades coastline.

problem, you just go the beach. The end results of all this relatively recent toil can come as a pleasant surprise to those whose idea of an island holiday home is simply white-washed walls and a stone floor...

pace. In the week we were resident about half the island's dirt roads were tarred for the first time. Such progress is probably anathema to those who have been driven to Alonissos...

really does require a car. Ours came with the villa and allowed us to explore several of the beaches along the island's eastern coastline. Although they don't quite measure up to Skopelos and Skiathos...

loved it - much more fun than solitude. In search of more of the same we spent our second week on Skopelos, less than an hour away by Flying Dolphin hydrofoil...

Getting there
The author was a guest of the Greek Islands Club (01932 220477). On Alonissos he stayed at Ewes House...

opportunity to create your own private enclave. Ours - an exquisite building with a high-ceilinged main room resembling an artist's studio - was in the middle of its own olive grove...

For Mediterranean Watersports Club Holidays... from £349 pp 2 weeks... Sunsail

Which UNspoilt GREEK ISLAND... LASKARINA

TRAVEL TIPS AROUND EUROPE
For those embarking on an inter-rail adventure, the revised 1996 Europe by Train book by Katie Wood and George McDonald...

China
A classic tour of the Middle Kingdom with the people who know it best... THE BEST OF CHINA TOUR

Only a Princess Cruise can make Alaska seem even bigger. Princess Cruises

ICELAND Ultimate Earth Experience
Three reasons make Iceland a great holiday destination with a difference. First, there's so much to see and do...

... and once there, **Ginny Dougary** sees her spouse in a pleasing new light; plus where to find fine food

## How my husband became a Euro-hero

I did not start well. I had been anticipating the short, sharp thrill of romance, not the bug-eyed haul of a flight to New York. It had been more than a year since my husband and I last had a break from the rollercoaster demands of family life. A cupidous recharge was long overdue. For months we had been looking forward to our midweek break in Paris, now only three hours away from London by Eurostar.

Half an hour out of Waterloo our zippy, new, high-speed train stopped in its tracks. As the minutes, and then the hours creaked by, it became increasingly clear that the minor technical hitch was a major electrical blow-out: we seemed destined to spend our romantic break in south Croydon. Our dinner could not be served because there was no power to heat it. The dimky pink pseudo-Deco lamps were the first to go, followed by the neon strip above them, then the emergency lights dimmed and faded, one by one, until we were plunged into darkness.

As the next train for Paris whizzed by, ours limped back to London past those names which resonate with romance: Bromley South, Beckenham Junction, Penze East and Brixton. At ten o'clock, we drew into Waterloo. It had taken us four hours to get back to where we had started.

When we finally arrived in Paris, it was three in the morning. As we filed down to the taxi rank, it was painfully evident that the Gallic cabbies had not been warned about our late arrival. There was not a taxi in sight. My husband took charge, leading the troops into the deserted streets around the Gare du Nord. Had he not done so, we might have stood there, dazed and befuddled, until dawn. My hubby, the Euro-hero, this, at least, was good for romance.

The Hôtel de Vigny, whose staff greeted us sympathetically at 4am, proved equally unhelpful, and after six hours' sleep, the world seemed a much better place.

You can keep Paris in the springtime. As far as I am concerned, autumn is the business. We hit the Bois de Boulogne, where lovers walk as the russet leaves tumble out of the sky. Across the Champs-Élysées and a promenade down the grand Avenue Foch, where the poorest countries boast the most opulent, honey-coloured embassies, and everywhere there is something to please the eye. The scalloped roads, the trees sprouting out of their filigree doilies, the wrought-iron fences.

The park itself was in full autumnal bloom. The smoke-green depths of the lake emerging from the amber foliage; the purple-leaved trees with their bright orange berries like Christmas lights. A handsome man rowing past gave a wicked smile. All of which is rather good for the senses, if not the soul.

Best of all was lunch. It is a tremendous feeling to stumble on somewhere uniquely Parisian without the aid of a guide book. This was an unpromising kiosk with an extraordinary clientele of dog owners. At one table there were leather-jacketed bikers. Their neighbours were a pair of genteel and exquisitely dressed elderly ladies. There was a family group of moth-



Keep Paris in the springtime: autumn is the business

ers, babies and grannies, all wearing hairbands. And a sprawling circle of low-liters: a navy-blazered drunk who performed an operatic duet with Mustafa, the kiosk-owner ("Oh merde, j'ai soif" ... "Attendez, j'arrive"), a huge man with an albino face, cowboy hat and snowgaiters; a very old man, his grizzled head swaddled in a Breton sweater; and a Josephine Baker look-alike who nibbled her chicken leg with an air of detached refinement.

It was a delicious but noisy experience, tucking into sautéed potatoes, flecked with herbs, a salad and omelette, red wine served in Fanta beakers, under the clear blue skies; the members of the dog club yelling at their pekes, poodles and labradors.

On to the Empire-style mansion of the Musée Marmottan on rue Louis-Bouilly, a short walk from Mustafa's kiosk. There is something particularly beguiling about a small museum. The Musée Rodin, the Dulwich Picture Gallery, the Marmottan are all gracious buildings in lovely grounds, with just enough great art to leave you feeling nourished but not overfed. At the Marmottan there is a room full of wondrous medieval illuminations, all blues and pinks and golds worked in meticulous detail. And, downstairs, a collection of some of the best-known Impressionist works, including *Water Lilies* and the painting which gave a name to the movement, *Impression: Sunrise*.

Beautiful paintings should be enough to transport the true romantic into a state of dreamy intoxication. But my husband and I are a pair of shameless volunteers. We need the real thing. We return to our bedroom for a glass of champagne and a duo of religious: two sumptuous balls of coffee-iced pastry.

Emerging several hours later, we were refreshed, invigorated and ready for more food.

### Paris: fact file

- The author was a guest of Relais & Châteaux and Eurostar.
- Hôtel de Vigny, 9-11 rue Balzac, 75008 Paris. There are 26 rooms and 11 suites. Rates per night for a double/twin room are Fr 2,200 (£290) to Fr 2,600 (£345). Rates per night for a suite are Fr 4,500 (£590) to Fr 4,500 (£600). Breakfast is Fr 90 (£12) per person. Reservations contact the Hotel Vigny: (0033) 40750439; fax 00331-40750581 or Relais & Châteaux.

### Eurostar

□ There are up to 13 Eurostar trains a day between London and Paris starting at 6.19am from London and 6.37 from Paris (7.10 on Saturdays, 8.07am on Sundays). The journey takes just over three hours. The last train from Paris leaves at 20.07 and from London at 18.53 (17.53 on Saturdays, 19.23 on Sundays). Some stop at Ashford, Calais Frethun and Lille. Return fares start from £59. Standard returns are £125. The first-class fare is £220.

□ For availability and booking call (0-800) 0345 81881 or contact travel agents and some stations.

### The plump ranks of pillows in the boudoir make one feel mistressy and illicit

The Hôtel de Vigny, like the Musée Marmottan, is small in size and huge in its pleasures. This sort of discreet opulence is perfect for engendering the sense of a dangerous liaison. The antique chandeliers, the mirrors, the *salle de bain* in crimson marble, the plump ranks of snowy pillows in the boudoir off the little living room lined with old books by illustrious authors, all seductively conspire to make one feel mistressy and illicit.

Sadly, this sense of languorous well-being was not to last. We had asked the charming hotel manager to suggest a "hot" new restaurant for dinner. She chose Yvan, off the Champs-Élysées; a big hit apparently with the fashion crowd. You might think that this, in itself, would be an inherently dubious recommendation for a couple who like to eat. And you would be right. But it was late and we were still recovering from Eurostar, so off we went for our 10.30pm sitting.

It is a pretty restaurant. Rather too pretty. Yvan is so full of extravagantly perfumed displays of flowers and eye-dazzling paintings of fruit and marble busts that one's senses are overloaded. You feel exhausted before you start.

Before you start. We waited for half an hour before we were seated, by which time the queue was snaking out of the front door. The food, when it arrived, was cold; the sauce had congealed during the long hiatus. The service was sloppy and imperious. Mustafa's kiosk, at a fraction of the price, won hands down.

Craveyards may not be most people's idea of a romantic outing, but they are mine. A mass-covered morgue brings on the moody adolescent in me, which was the last time my heart was broken. And as all romantics know, it is always more lyrical to be love's victim than her victor. Père Lachaise Cimetière.

where we spent the next morning tramping, was a disappointment. Too many American tourists and bolshy guards and not enough overgrown ruins. We searched, in vain, for the monuments to Héloïse and Abélard (the *amants célèbres*). The directions to the graves of Simone Signoret and Oscar Wilde had been obliterated by the tracing of millions of fingers over the years. There was a gratifyingly macabre monolith with a frieze of laughing skulls and a touching display of fresh flowers in front of Rossini's resting place. We did find ourselves in front of the tomb of James Douglas Morrison (1943-1971), which now requires the presence of two fulltime guards "parce que les gens ne respectent pas". One of the tributes was a scrap of paper with the words "Hello, I Love You - A poem." I toyed with the idea of leaving my poem, *Light My Fire*, but thought better of it.

We had our last meal in a wonderfully old-fashioned restaurant, in what is becoming the mega-trendy new quartier of Paris. The Bastille is now being stormed by 1960s design shops and off-the-wall galleries.

Frankly, I am beginning to worry about my husband. He chose to eat calves brains for lunch. And on our slow meander back to the station he was captivated by the displays of offal in the charcuteries. "Will you look at that!" he said in front of one spectacular array of pigs' heads. "What a beautiful sight."

Well, they do say Paris brings out the romantic in you.



Sur le pont Alexandre III: even Parisian bridges bring out the romantic in you

### RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS

THE frustration of eating out in Paris is trying to eat more than three meals a day. Breakfast, though, is the best time to visit. Les Deux Magots or Café Flore, the landmark cafes of St-Germain. Before tourists overcrowd the terraces, you will find regulars, there for the pleasure of "la corbeille du boulangier", excellent coffee and pressed orange.

Conveniently close to the Opéra and the Arc de Triomphe is the latest stylish adjunct to the Guy Savoy stable, Cap Vernet, at 82 avenue Marceau (47 20 20 40). The cooking is quick and precise and the bill about Fr200-250 a head.

After a romantic stroll from Notre-Dame over the islands in the Seine, try Au Gourmet de l'Île, at 42 rue St-Louis-en-l'Île, (43 26 79 27). This is quintessentially Parisian, the food is straightforward and traditional, and the bill could be less than Fr150 each.

A quieter alternative in the same street is Le Monde des Cakes, at number 69 (43 54 45 27), typical of old Paris. The cooking is familiar but fastidious and one's bill about Fr300.

In the delightful Marais square, the Place de Vosges, La Guirlande de Julie at number 25 (48 87 94 07) has its terrace under the arcades. It has common ownership with the Tour d'Argent (45-47, quai de la Tourneille, 43 54 23 31) which charges astronomically for its unrivalled view of Notre-Dame and dishes that have been classics for decades. At La Guirlande the cooking is lighter, more modern and more affordable, about Fr225.

For a big brasserie try Bofinger, 3-7 rue de la Bastille, (42 72 87 82), full of copper and mirrors and waiters negotiating a tricky staircase with incredibly heavy-laden trays held boldly aloft. About Fr200 a head.

In Montmartre the best address is A. Beauvilliers at 52 rue Lamarck, a period piece serving distinguished cooking. The cost, though, is likely to be at least Fr500.

La Café Marly (49 26 06 60) at 93 rue de Rivoli, overlooks the Louvre's Cour Napoléon. It is usually crowded, and service can be slow. About Fr250.

Even more distinguished is Les Moutons in the Trocadéro (45 05 90 00). The food is fine, about Fr250 a head, and the view is terrific.

ROBIN YOUNG

BOOK A **VALENTINE** £69 SPECIAL ON EUROSTAR TO PARIS OR BRUSSELS.

0345 881 881

EUROPEAN PROMOTION OFFERS

All for double the cost of other offers in Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, etc. or a day return Saturday only.

**TURKEY** Away from the crowds, closer to the country. **DOLUNAY HOLIDAYS** 01452 501978

**Valentines ROMANTIC CITIES** All the World's most beautiful cities... Paris Rome Venice New York & more

01235 824324

**TRAVEL INSURANCE THAT BROADENS THE WALLET.**

Whatever your travel plans this year, cut the cost with annual travel cover from Europ Assistance. Your whole family's covered for a full 12 months\* - for less than some single trip policies.

How much less? Well, as an example, we'll cover a family of up to 8 people for a whole year for just £102.50 - that's under £13 a head. And if you're going by car, there's unbeatable value on our famous roadside rescue service too.

However often you travel - from a summer fortnight to that spur-of-the-moment weekend break - it's great to know you're already covered, without the hassle and expense of arranging cover each time.

So call Europ Assistance now on 01444 442211. And let the world's most widely used assistance organisation cut the cost of your holiday.

europ assistance

**01444 442211**

\*183 days maximum spent overseas.

EDINBURGH/GLASGOW from **£58**

BELFAST from **£55**

DUBLIN from **£59**

Includes great & bar service.

**British Midland Diamond Deals**

Return fares from London Heathrow. Contact your local travel agent or call for details on **0345-554554**

or book on the internet <http://www.flybritishmidland.com/>

Diamond Deal fare available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Travel must include a Saturday night stay. Passenger taxes will apply.

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 481 1989 (TRADE) 0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE) FAX: 0171 481 9313

CHECK-IN

Because we think the world of you ...

Table with columns for destination, airline, and price. Includes destinations like Sydney, Perth, Auckland, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bali, Saseon, Tokyo, Delhi, New York, Boston, Florida, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver, Caribbean, Mexico City, Kathmandu, Johannesburg, Harare, Nairobi, Cairo, Dubai, Rio, Paris, Amsterdam, Geneva, and Around the World.

TRAILBLAZERS THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

New York with American Airlines Business Class including 7 nights 4\* accommodation (with breakfast) Plus stretch lime transfers. £1749 return. \*price per person, based on twin share basis. London - Brisbane - Sydney - Tokyo - London only £595 return!

For the real lowdowns on worldwide travel, Trailblazers is your one stop travel shop. Trailblazers offers more low cost flights to more destinations than anyone. Experts in airfares since 1970, we can tailor-make your itinerary with up to 85% discount on hotels and car hire worldwide.

42-50 Ends Court Road - LONDON W8 6FT Long Haul Flights: 0171-538 3366 Transatlantic & European: 0171-537 5400 194 Kensington High Street - LONDON W8 7RG Long Haul Flights: 0171-539 3838 Transatlantic & European: 0171-538 3232 First & Business Class: 0171-538 3444 22-24 The Priory Queensway - BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS Worldwide Flights: 0121-238 1234 48 Corn Street - BRISTOL BS1 1HQ Worldwide Flights: 0117-929 9088 254-264 Southwell Street - GLASGOW G2 3EH Worldwide Flights: 0141-353 2224 58 Deansgate - MANCHESTER M3 2FF Worldwide Flights: 0161-539 6968 First & Business Class: 0161-539 3434

FLIGHT BOOKERS Your one stop Travel Shop. Includes flight prices for New York, Florida, Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, Toronto, Rio de Janeiro, Sydney, Perth, New Zealand, India, Jo'burg, Nairobi, Paris. Also includes a 'USA' section with 'GUARANTEED LOWEST AIRFARES ON SCHEDULED AIRLINES'.

PARIS from £69, AMSTERDAM from £79, PRAGUE from £145. It's your passport out of here.

BEST OFFERS! Includes a table of flight prices for various destinations like London, Paris, Rome, etc.

AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND For the holiday of a lifetime. Lowest airfares to Australia & New Zealand. BRIDGE THE WORLD 0171 209 9000.

Table with columns for destination, airline, and price. Includes destinations like New York, London, Paris, Rome, etc.

AIR FRANCE LONDON - BORDEAUX TWO FLIGHTS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE. Valid for two adults travelling together at any published fare up to 31 March 1996.

Dublin £135\* To make a booking or to request a brochure for this and more offers to 11 other exciting cities, see your travel agent, or phone: 0121 252 3636.

NEW ZEALAND NOW! £649 RETURN. Fly to New Zealand with Britannia Airways in February/March. Return with a top quality scheduled airline anytime between March and June.

BRUSSELS from £69, FRANKFURT from £104, DUBLIN from £59, BERGEN from £190, ZURICH from £99, NICE from £125, PALMA from £125, BELFAST from £55, EDINBURGH from £58, GLASGOW from £58.

Australia & New Zealand 2 FREE INTERNAL FLIGHTS. Flying Qantas, not for delay now!

TRAVEL INSURANCE 17 DAYS EUROPE FROM £14.50 ANNUAL INSURANCE FROM £35.00. FLEXIBLE COVER & PRICES TO SUIT EVERY TRAVELLER AND EVERY TRIP.

TRAVEL INSURANCE ANNUAL MULTI-TRIP FROM £65. SINGLE TRIP FROM £10. Includes details on cover and pricing.

VACATION TRAVEL. Includes a table of flight prices for various destinations like London, Paris, Rome, etc.

AFRICA, BALEARICS, CORSICA, CRUISE & SAIL ABROAD. Includes details on travel packages and prices.

AIR TICKETS DIRECT. Includes a table of flight prices for various destinations like London, Paris, Rome, etc.

EUROVILLAGES THE SPECIALISTS IN SELF-CATERING HOLIDAYS. Enjoy the freedom of self-drive, self-catering with a weekly holiday.

French Fields from £99. Enjoy a week's camping in France from £99 per family. Based on 2 adults and 4 children sharing.

And calm of mind all passion spent JOHN MILTON. This was only after Samson had cracked the temple's columns and brought the whole caboodle tumbling down on himself.

ASIA. Includes a table of flight prices for various destinations like London, Paris, Rome, etc.

AUSTRALIA FROM OPERA TO OUTBACK. Experience the Red Centre, the Great Barrier Reef, cities or outback. Let us tailor-make your holiday.

SIMPLY CORSICA. Corsica is the most beautiful island in the Mediterranean. Wooded villages with pools, panoramic views, pristine beaches, turquoise waters.

BURGUNDY. Attractive canal side property in rural village. Sleeps 4 but is shared. Good local restaurants. Super countrywide access.

Barbados. Every week this winter until 20th April. Stay 7 nights or more and choose from one of nine luxury hotels. From £1995 to £3885 with flights.

Vermeer. A stunning exhibition of this 30 Dutch painter will be held in The Hague from 1 March to 2 June 1996. For details of our city breaks to The Hague and Amsterdam together with further information on the exhibition, write or phone.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including '95 EURO SITE' and 'CUT HO'.

... Neil Maclean explores the chewing-gum island of Chios; and Mike Gerrard samples Greek food



Women sit and talk outside their homes in Pyrgi, one of the mastic villages of Chios

# Homer's secret hideaway

The first pupil to be scolded for chewing gum in class — and I am almost completely sure of my facts here — was one of Homer's lads, sitting on the rocky outcrop above the village of Vrontados on the island of Chios.

The old blind poet, perched on what is now known as Homer's Seat, on hearing sounds of mastication, uttered the immortal lines: "What are you chewing boy? Spit it out," which has since become a refrain of teachers throughout the ages, only recently superseded, in the late 20th century, by: "What are you smoking boy? Get off the ceiling."

It is tempting to assume an island which is famous for little more than Homer and chewing gum must be a dull place but Chios hides a bright light under a modest bushel. Few tourists even know of the island's existence, although it is the fifth largest island in the Greek collection. Even some of my most enthusiastic Greek-island-hopping friends failed to locate it on their usually detailed mental maps.

You find it between Lesbos and Samos, so close to Turkey that the castle of Cesme can be clearly seen across the water on a sunny day. It is an affluent place, thanks to maritime money: 15 per cent of the world's commercial shipping is said to be owned by Chiot families and, until recently, they have felt little motivation to enter the tourist market. Besides, Chios has few really good beaches to attract the tourist crowds; a holiday here is more cerebral than that.

For me, the highlight of the island was a visit to the monastery of Nea Moni. Founded in 1045 and inspired

by a trio of monks who spotted a miraculous icon on the site, it is an atmospheric place, pungent with incense, and has the best views of the island. A bearded priest ushered me through an entrance way covered in ancient, smudged frescoes to another chamber, this time alive with an astonishing array of mosaics, celebrated for the vibrancy of their colours. Sombre-looking saints glared at me from the ceiling. "During the midnight masses," said the priest, "these faces shimmering in the candle light seem to come alive."

In the katholikon next door a clock struck eight — six hours admit — stuck on ancient Byzantine time. The priest paused to show me a cupboard full of human skulls, a reminder of the infamous Turkish massacre of 1822. The mastic-producing villages in the south of Chios, collectively known as the Masticora, were treated less harshly by the Turks at that time, thanks to their valuable crop. It seems the women in the sultan's harem were particularly fond of their chewing

gum, although mastic has 101 other uses. For some reason, Chios is one of the very few places in the world where trees produce mastic. Some people say it is because of a combination of the island's volcanic terrain, soil and climate; villagers believe it is thanks to the tears of Saint Issidor, murdered in AD 250 by the Romans for embracing Christianity.

The most interesting of the Masticora is the village of Mesta, a classic example of fortified architecture with all the houses facing inwards, inter-connected by arches from roof to roof, assisting the villagers to flee attacking pirates — and these days, I was told, useful for young lovers hiding from parents.

Behind one perfectly ordinary-looking white-washed facade I found the little vaulted church of Taxiarchis and, at the far end, a massive reredos carved in the 12th century from a single chestnut tree, featuring delicately traced scenes from the old and new testaments, an intricate braile Bible, each little section worth a thousand words.

"The man who carved that drank a bottle of ouzo every day to keep him in good humour," the old caretaker told me.

Chios has had more than its fair share of invaders over the centuries including the Genoese, who ruled the island for 500 or so years from the 14th century, and who, more than anyone, exploited the mastic

business. Columbus complained of high prices when he arrived in 1499: to pick up crew, maps and mastic trees to plant should he reach India. The explorer stayed in the Villa Homeric in the Campos area, a fertile valley close to Chora, the capital, which became home to the ruling Genoese elite and wealthy Chios.

Many of the old villas still stand behind high, honey-coloured stone walls, including the Villa Argentiokion. It is run as a sort of house party by the current marchese, a soft-spoken aristocrat from one of the old ruling Genoese families.

There are four villas within the two and a half acres of flower beds, orchards, herb gardens and secluded corners. At dinner you are served a Homeric feast by smart white-gloved waiters at a candlelit table covered in rose and set with the family silver under a spreading plane tree.

It seems very far away from most people's idea of a Greek island holiday; but then few people even know Chios is a Greek island.

### Chios fact file

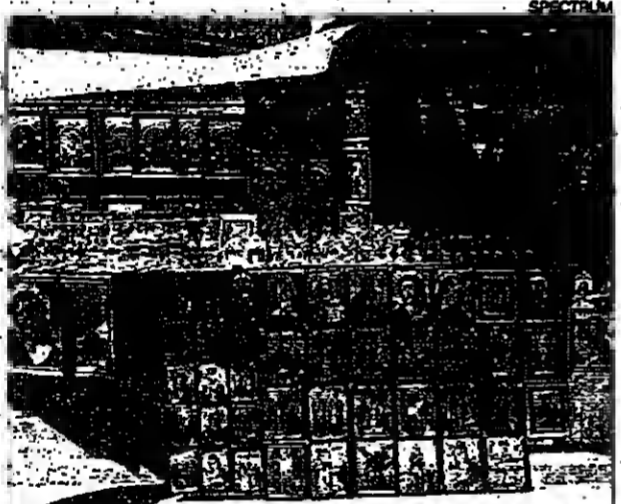
The author was a guest of the Greek Islands Club, 66 High Street, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 1BU (01932 220477) and stayed at the Villa Argentiokion, featured by the club. Prices range from £893 for a week in May to £1,180 a week in August. The prices are per person for four people sharing a villa, and include return flights from Heathrow to Athens, domestic flights to Chios and breakfast.

## A taste of unknown Athens

You'll hate Athens. Lots of people say so, and they all give the same reasons: smog, traffic, crowds and few attractions beyond the obvious ones. Worst of all, if it is said you can't get a decent meal there, particularly in the tourist rip-off area known as the Plaka. Here, among the many restaurants, there is only one safe place to eat, they assure you. The trouble is, they all recommend somewhere different.

First, food. In the past couple of years I've spent several weeks in Athens, and eaten well for little more than the price of a visit to a burger bar in Britain. Take Socrates' Prison, for example, where I would gladly be imprisoned for a week in order to eat my way through the menu and sip the draught Guinness. Only a marble's throw from the Acropolis, the inside has a cosy, bar-like atmosphere, with pre-Raphaelite prints on the walls. Outside, there is an attractive walled garden. For £4 I had a delicious beef roll stuffed with parsley, green pepper and aubergine, and afterwards (for £1.50) a oven-baked apple bursting with raisins, sultanas and walnuts, and drowning in cream.

The Salamandra has only Greek menus, so take your phrase book or take a chance



Icon shop in Monastiraki, near the Plaka and flea market

on specials, which include *saganaka* (fried cheese) and *spetsofai* (a spicy sausage and pepper stew from the Pelion peninsula). And, if you think Greek salad means only one thing, how about one of its creamy Rouxofort salads?

In the Plaka, there are any number of good eating places, as well as a few of the fast-turnover, poor-quality kind. Follow a few simple rules when eating in Greece, and you will not go far wrong. Never eat anywhere which employs someone to coax you inside. Ask to see the kitchen — not to

look at the food but to check out the chef. If he looks as if he has just escaped from prison, with the blood of his crimes still on his apron, and he has a cigarette dangling from his lips, you're safe. The food will probably be excellent.

For Plaka atmosphere, eat in one of the three basement tavernas along Kidathineon. To eat outdoors, go to Xynos or O Platanos. Vegetarians should head for the Eden and its spinach or mushroom pies, meat-free moussaka and the best brown bread this side of the Bosphorus.

### Athens fact file

British Airways (0181-759 5511), Olympic Airways (0171-409 3400) and Virgin Atlantic Airways (01293 562343) fly daily to Athens, from around £300 return, but all are at present doing special offers ranging from about £119 to £140.

Among the many tour operators offering packages to Athens are: Abroad Holidays (0181-767 3039), Eurobreak Holidays (0181-780 7700), Citybreaks (0141-921 8411) and Simple Simon (0171-373 1933).

For further details, contact the Greek National Tourist Office, 4 Conduit Street, London W1 00J (0171-734 5997).

So what do you do for the rest of the day, to pass the time between meals? See the Acropolis, of course, and the National Archaeological Museum, and try not to miss the old classical site of Agora. The Acropolis Study Centre has a fascinating display on how the Parthenon was built, including computer graphics showing how the stone was hauled from nearby quarries.

Among the many smaller museums of Athens, my favourite is the Museum of Greek Musical Instruments, in a 19th-century Plaka mansion. Here you can listen to the exhibits. These range from the urban blues of rembetika to shepherd's pipes and even a display on how to make music from a combination of worry beads and a wine glass. If you thought Greek music was a load of bouzouki, think again.

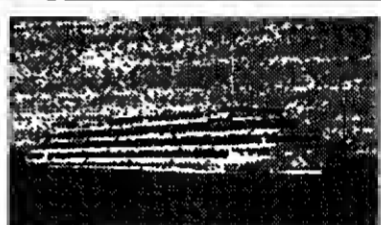
The Cycladic Museum of Cycladic Art is another treat, the central items being the artefacts of the Cycladic civilisation of 3000-2000 BC.

Finally, go beyond the Plaka's souvenir shops into the flea market west of Monastiraki Square, particularly on Sunday mornings, when the market extends for miles, and the ooze is enough to wake the dead in the Kerameikos Cemetery alongside. Want to buy a religious icon, a stuffed stork, a car engine, second-hand camera, bootleg music tapes? Then come to Athens on a Sunday morning.

In fact, go to Athens at anytime. I love the place. So might you.

Mike Gerrard is the author of *Essential Athens* (published by the AA, £4.99).

In 1996 there are three opportunities to join a remarkable river journey which will take you the entire length of the Volga, all the way from Moscow to the exotic city of Astrakhan. Our journey will include the holy cities of the Golden Ring, ancient Nizhni Novgorod, the once invincible Golden Horde (Tartar Empire) capital of Kazan, Volgograd (Stalingrad) scene of some of the fiercest World War II fighting and Astrakhan, a former capital of another



Tartar Empire which fell to Ivan the Terrible in 1556. In addition we will make

calls to little known cities, towns and villages which will offer an insight into life in this vast region of Russia. The ideal time to travel is in the spring and autumn and our sailings offer the opportunity to travel in late April or October, locally known as the 'velvet season'. The April cruise is aboard the 100 passenger 'Yesenin', one of the finest river vessels in Russia. The October sailings are on the 250 passenger 4 star 'Krasin' or the 3 star 'Karamzin'.

## CITIES OF THE TARTARS AND TSARS

A 21 DAY RIVER VOYAGE ALONG THE VOLGA FROM MOSCOW TO THE CASPIAN SEA FROM ONLY £1295

**THE ITINERARY**

**DAY 1 London (Heathrow) - Moscow** Embark vessel which will moor overnight.

**DAY 2 Moscow** Morning city excursion. Sail in the afternoon.

**DAY 3 Uglich** Founded in 1148 this Golden Ring city offers a treasure trove of historic sites. Visit the Kremlin, the cathedral and church of St John and the cathedral of the Transfiguration.

**DAY 4 Kostroma** Home to the noble families Godunov and Romanov before the young Alexi Romanov was elected Tsar. See wonderful 18th and 19th century architecture including the Ipatyevsky Monastery.

**DAY 5 Nizhni Novgorod** Formerly known as Gorki, the city was closed to foreigners until 1990. Founded in 1221 it became famous as an important trading post attracting caravans from Siberia and the Orient. Visit the magnificent Kremlin.

**DAY 6 Cruising the Volga**

**DAY 7 Samara** We will spend the afternoon in this important river trading city. Stroll along the river promenades and late permitting visit Stalin's secret bunker built in 1942 as a precaution in case he had to flee from Moscow.

**DAY 8 Cruising the Volga**

**DAY 9 Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad)** Explore this strategically placed city at the confluence of the Volga and Don rivers. Visit Mamail Hill, site of the most ferocious fighting during the Winter of 1942 which resulted in over 200,000 deaths. See the 170ft statue of Mother Russia and the memorial — a most moving experience.

**DAY 10 Cruising the Volga**

**DAY 11 Astrakhan** Located 70 feet below sea level on a huge island in the Volga Delta. This is a fascinating city which is divided by the Kurlum River and linked by more than 30 bridges. The city's old bridge with dozens of arches, is over two miles long. Ivan the Terrible conquered the city in 1556 and annexed it to Russia.

**DAY 12 Cruising the Volga**

**DAY 13 Divuyshin Island** A morning to walk and relax in peaceful setting.

**DAY 14 Saratov** One of the oldest cities on the Volga, Saratov is surrounded by mountains and is best known as the home of the writer and politician, Cheyevsky and the world's first cartoonist — Yuri Gagarin.

**DAY 15 Cruising the Volga**

**DAY 16 Sybirsk** Formerly known as Ulyanovsk, this was the birthplace and boyhood home of Lenin. A Soviet shrine for over 70 years, it is surprising to see how prominent a place Lenin still occupies in the national psyche.

**DAY 17 Kazan** Half Russian, half Tartar this thriving port is a unique blend of Christian and Muslim cultures. Conquered by the ever-industrious Ivan the Terrible in 1552 this capital of the Tartar republic was founded in the 13th century by the Mongols. Tolstoy and Lenin studied here and the State Museum offers a marvellous insight into the history of the Tartars.

**DAY 18 Kozmodemyansk-Yarino** Here in this lovely town founded by Ivan the Terrible

**DAY 19 Yaroslavl** Founded in 1010 this is one of the foremost cities of the Golden Ring. In the 17th century it established itself as a great mercantile centre and was home to some of the richest families, resulting in some truly splendid architecture.

**DAY 20 Cruising the Volga**

**DAY 21 Moscow** Visit the Kremlin and the Armoury. Afternoon free. Evening visit to the Circus.

**DAY 22 Moscow - London** Afternoon flight to London (Heathrow).

**1996 DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES PER PERSON IN TWIN BEDDED CABIN**

Vessel	27 April	4 October	11 October
	Yesenin	Krasin	Karamzin
Main deck	£1595	£1595	£1295
Upper deck	£1795	£1695	£1445
Boat deck	£2060	£1880	£1695
Deluxe	£2695	£2695	-
Single Main deck	£2395	£2295	£1795

Prices subject to surcharge. Ports subject to change. Price includes: Economy class air travel, 21 nights on the river vessel on full board, shore excursions throughout the cruise, visit to the Moscow Circus, 2 concerts either ashore or on board, complimentary wine with dinner on Yesenin and Krasin only, port taxes, transfers, Guest Speakers.

Not included: Travel insurance, Russian visa £25, UK departure tax £10, tips to ship's crew.

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS**  
Please telephone 0171-409 0376 (7 days a week during office hours)

**NOBLE CALEDONIA LIMITED**  
11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1P 8EE  
TELEPHONE 0171-409 0376 FACSIMILE 0171-409 0374  
24 HOUR BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1424  
ATOL 3008 ABTA 29216

**GREECE**  
17 years offering our personal selection on the islands of Lesbos, Mykonos, Kos, Rhodes, Zakynthos, Naxos, Paros, Tinos, Santorini, Crete, Peloponnese & the Pelion peninsula.  
01403 259788 (24hr)  
**ILIOS ISLAND HOLIDAYS LTD**

**WARNING: Miss out on our Australia and Far East holidays and you'll be hopping mad.**

Call 01293 617181 for bookings to Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Australia or call into your local ABTA travel agent. Prices from £569.

Virgin Holidays logo

ABTA logo

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

GOLF Traction in West Country... SUPPOLOK Caye Breaks... Children's Summer Camps...

CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMPS

Fun and Adventure for Children & Teenagers... Camp Beaumont... 2 FOR 1 OFFER...

CORNWALL & DEVON

West Country Cottages... Cornish Traditional Cottages... DARTMOUTH Character...

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

Because tomorrow's world needs you today... Track the elusive Snow Leopard... Save Borneo's precious Rain Forests...

U.K. HOLIDAYS

A Special Selection of Hand-picked Cottages... 1995 prices held on 1000's of Holidays and Short Breaks... 01282 445002

YOUR KEY TO THE WIDEST RANGE OF COUNTRY COTTAGES... Holidays from £26pp... 01282 445777... BLAKES Cottages

CORNWALL & DEVON

CLASSIC COTTAGE Over 300... DEVON Specialists Choose from over 430 cottages... CORNWALL & DEVON, 142 cottages...

CORNWALL & DEVON

COTTAGES & houses all over the West Country... DARTMOUTH Character...

WEST COUNTRY

cottages, houses, even a farm! Huge variety, vividly described, star-rated. Free colour brochure.

HELPFUL HOLIDAYS

3 Cornish Sts, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire... 01242 433930

CORNWALL & DEVON

SPORTS & CRAFT BREAKS FOR ALL

RELAX and DASHLE in an amazing range of craft activities and sports facilities... EXCELLENT INDOOR FACILITIES...

U.K. HOLIDAYS

COTTAGE HOLIDAYS FROM ONLY £25\*... BIG NEW 1996 BROCHURE... 1000's of quality cottages throughout the country... 01282 445721

COTSWOLDS

LUXURY stone cottages... SPECIAL selection of hand-picked cottages... COTSWOLDS Specialists...

DORSET, HANTS, & I.O.W.

DORSET Specialists Choose from 2150... ENGLISH COUNTRY Cottages... FEBRUARY SPECIAL...

COTSWOLDS

COTSWOLDS Specialists Choose from 2150... CORNWALL & DEVON

NEW FOREST

QUOD HOTEL... PEAK FITNESS... HOLIDAYS AFLOAT...

BRITAIN'S BEST BOATING

For your ideal choice of Boating Holidays on Britain's finest waterways... FREEPHONE 0800 530 530

IRELAND

CO. CLARE, NE Spanish Park... IRELAND Specialists Choose from over 100 cottages...

LAKE DISTRICT

BASEBATHWAITE... CUMBRIAN COTTAGES... LAKE DISTRICT Specialists...

LONDON

CENTRAL London... NEW FOREST... PEAK DISTRICT...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... SCOTLAND... WEST HIGHLANDS...

WALES

WALLES Specialists Choose from over 400 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

PEAK DISTRICT

PEAK District Specialists Choose from over 270 cottages... SCOTLAND... COZY...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... NORTHUMBRIA... WEST HIGHLANDS...

NORTHUMBRIA

SUPERB cottages Northumbria... WEST HIGHLANDS... WALES...

WEST HIGHLANDS

Self Catering cottages designed for you... WALES... SCOTLAND...

WALES

WALLES Specialists Choose from over 400 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

WALES

WALLES Specialists Choose from over 400 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

WALES

WALLES Specialists Choose from over 400 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

WALES

WALLES Specialists Choose from over 400 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

WALES

WALLES Specialists Choose from over 400 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

WALES

WALLES Specialists Choose from over 400 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

WALES

WALLES Specialists Choose from over 400 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

WALES

WALLES Specialists Choose from over 400 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

WALES

WALLES Specialists Choose from over 400 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND Specialists Choose from over 820 cottages... SCOTLAND... WALES...

YORKSHIRE

SALES beautiful renovated... YORKSHIRE Specialists Choose from over 600 cottages...

YORKSHIRE DALES

Converted barn, sleeps 4/6... YORKSHIRE Specialists Choose from over 600 cottages...

POMMERY BREAKS

Annual winter break... Pommery Breaks... 01282 445002

YORKSHIRE DALES

Converted barn, sleeps 4/6... YORKSHIRE Specialists Choose from over 600 cottages...

POMMERY BREAKS

Annual winter break... Pommery Breaks... 01282 445002

YORKSHIRE DALES

Converted barn, sleeps 4/6... YORKSHIRE Specialists Choose from over 600 cottages...

POMMERY BREAKS

Annual winter break... Pommery Breaks... 01282 445002

YORKSHIRE DALES

Converted barn, sleeps 4/6... YORKSHIRE Specialists Choose from over 600 cottages...

POMMERY BREAKS

Annual winter break... Pommery Breaks... 01282 445002

YORKSHIRE DALES

Converted barn, sleeps 4/6... YORKSHIRE Specialists Choose from over 600 cottages...

POMMERY BREAKS

Annual winter break... Pommery Breaks... 01282 445002

UK BREAKS

BATH The Royal Crescent Hotel... 4\* RAC... 01225 739955

ST BRIDES HOTEL... 4\* RAC... 01834 813034

GUERNSEY Bouguie du Pommerier... 4\* RAC... 01481 56531

Discover Dorset Free Holiday Guide... 01202 221001

BOURNEMOUTH... 01202 554415

COME & DANCE... Piccadilly... 01202 552559

LYNMOUTH HARBOUR... 01299 753223

WHITELY MANOR... 01666 622888

WOOLACOMBE BAY HOTEL... 4\* RAC... 01271 870388

Food Hall Cottages... 01548 852487

ARMATHWAITE HALL HOTEL... 017687 76551

Mid Week Winter Breaks at CAREYS MANOR HOTEL... 01590 623551

CATHAIR DHUBH ESTATE... 0121 225 5858

Win an Easter Weekend... 01962 840840

ROYAL HOTEL WINCHESTER... 01962 840840

The Blakeney Hotel... 01263 740797

THE OLD MILL AT HARNHAM... 01723 337517

COME WALKING... LANGDALE HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB... 015394 37302

CROMER... 01263 312543

Audley Hall... 01225 810 555

CRICKLADE HOTEL COTSWOLD MANOR HOUSE... 01793 750751

ROYAL YORK & FAULKNER HOTEL... 01179 372 916

Bath in Winter... HINTON GRANGE... 01629 582795

BATH £29.45... 01225 463134

LYME REGIS Alexandra Hotel... 01297 442010

LONDON Dolphin Square... 0800 616607

HOTEL LA PLACE, JERSEY... 01534 44261

JERSEY'S MOST EXCLUSIVE HOTEL... 01534 43101

ROYAL YORK & FAULKNER HOTEL... 01179 372 916

Bath in Winter... HINTON GRANGE... 01629 582795

BATH £29.45... 01225 463134

THE OLD MILL AT HARNHAM... 01723 337517



TRAVEL

ADVERTISE CALL: 171 481 1989 (TRADE) 171 481 4000 (PRIVATE) AX: 0171 481 9313

CHECK-IN

CALL FOR BROCHURE Australia New Zealand The Best Value

The Widest Choice of Holidays & Flights

Canada & Worldwide CALL FOR BROCHURE

Table with columns for AUSTRALIA FROM £549, AUCKLAND FROM £614, HOTEL ROOMS FROM £32 PER NIGHT PER PERSON, CAR RENTAL FROM £18 CAMPERVANS FROM £26, AMERICA FROM £199, CANADA FROM £195

94 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 9PL RESERVATIONS - INFORMATION NZTIS TEL: 0181 748 4455 Fax: 0181 748 2274

Table with columns for WORLDWIDE Return flights from, CANADA Return flights from, USA & CANADA, WINTER SPORTS

FRANCE Provence Beautiful 1800sq m... S.W. FRANCE VILLAS & COTTAGES Close to five beaches...

FRANCE DORDOGNE FARMHOUSE & COTTAGE (separate) Lovely farmhouse with pool...

FRANCE FRANCE NORD Beautifully situated in the heart of the Ardennes...

CANADA 10 miles west of St. Tropez... PROVENCE Scenic hillside stone farmhouse...

FRANCE A superior choice of traditional French holiday properties... FRANCE LIVE LIKE A LORD IN A PRIVATE VILLA OR CHATEAU FROM ONLY £169...

FRANCE FREE COLOUR BROCHURE... FRANCE PELOPONNESSE Old fashioned Greek house...

FRANCE FREE COLOUR BROCHURE... FRANCE VILLAS WITH POOLS MANY HOLIDAYS BELOW '95 PRICES

FRANCE FREE COLOUR BROCHURE... FRANCE VILLAS WITH POOLS MANY HOLIDAYS BELOW '95 PRICES

FRANCE FREE COLOUR BROCHURE... FRANCE VILLAS WITH POOLS MANY HOLIDAYS BELOW '95 PRICES

FRANCE FREE COLOUR BROCHURE... FRANCE VILLAS WITH POOLS MANY HOLIDAYS BELOW '95 PRICES

FRANCE FREE COLOUR BROCHURE... FRANCE VILLAS WITH POOLS MANY HOLIDAYS BELOW '95 PRICES

FRANCE FREE COLOUR BROCHURE... FRANCE VILLAS WITH POOLS MANY HOLIDAYS BELOW '95 PRICES

FRANCE FREE COLOUR BROCHURE... FRANCE VILLAS WITH POOLS MANY HOLIDAYS BELOW '95 PRICES

FRANCE FREE COLOUR BROCHURE... FRANCE VILLAS WITH POOLS MANY HOLIDAYS BELOW '95 PRICES

FRANCE FREE COLOUR BROCHURE... FRANCE VILLAS WITH POOLS MANY HOLIDAYS BELOW '95 PRICES

GREECE PAXOS & LEPKADA... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

GERMANY ALBAHRA Beautifully situated in the heart of the Ardennes...

GREECE AKROTIRI Beautifully situated in the heart of the Ardennes...

TUSCANY 2 KMS FROM BARGA (LUCCA) 2 Farmhouses sleep 3/4...

ALLURING UMBRIA 2 houses sleep 8 + 4/5... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa... ITALY TUSCANY COAST Wonderful holiday villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... PORTUGAL ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa... SPAIN ALGARVE Beautiful family villa...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool... USA & CANADA ORLANDO Luxury 3 bed, 2 bath, pool...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm... WINTER SPORTS CHALET Barons in our Firm...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS... U.K. HOLIDAYS BROSSE DE VYLL & NOSS...

Chez nous '96 Save money - book direct! 1500 private owners advertise...

EuroSites WE WORK YOU REST THEY PLAY... THE BEST QUALITY SELF-DRIVE CAMPING HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE

See Italy in comfort Five quality coach tours... For FREE Brochure, see a travel agent or call 01235 824324

YOU are the best person to travel with... ITALIAN Escapes

Tuscany Traditional country with apartments with pool... Tuscany Traditional country with apartments with pool...

CRYSTAL ITALY See Italy in comfort... Five quality coach tours...

JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA THE LATIN AMERICAN TRAVEL SPECIALIST... 16 Devonshire Road, Chelsea, London W4 2HD

SCANDINAVIA 66 pages of independent holidays... A complete range of tailor-made itineraries...

EXODUS The Different Holiday... UK leaders in small group adventure holidays worldwide...

Walking Holidays SHERPA... For the independent traveller to Spain, the Penedos provide the perfect insight...

USA & CANADA Amongst the many tours of Canada in Jetsave's brochure, three feature Quebec...

Jetsave RESERVATIONS 01343-337711... Name: Address: Postcode:

TURKEY away from the crowds closer to the country... DOLUNAY 01452 501978 HOLIDAYS (24 hours)

Sunquest TURKEY SUMMER '96... FREE CHILD PLACES \* TWO WEEKS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

23 RESORTS IN TURKEY 2.5\* HOTELS - APARTMENTS COACH TOURS - GULET CRUISES... Reservations: 0171 499 999



GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

DERN chess contains a bloody element which was not in earlier decades of this game. The reason is the prevalence of the Sicilian Defence as an opening. Practitioners of the Sicilian rely on long-term endgame strategies, such as control of the open c-file and the more mobile pawn centre, but they must be prepared to meet a savage middlegame. More often than not, the black king is gunned down in the centre before he has time to show the following move is not necessarily safe, even once it has landed on the kingside.

White: E. Schiller Black: T. Waisfeld San Mateo, 1995 Sicilian Defence

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. d4 Nf6 4. Nf3 e6 5. Bc4 d6 6. Bg5 Be7 7. Qd2 Qc7 8. Qe2 Qb6 9. Bb3 Bb7 10. Bc2 Bc8 11. Bb1 Bb7 12. Bc2 Bc8 13. Bb1 Bb7 14. Bc2 Bc8 15. Bb1 Bb7 16. Bc2 Bc8 17. Bb1 Bb7 18. Bc2 Bc8 19. Bb1 Bb7 20. Bc2 Bc8 21. Bb1 Bb7 22. Bc2 Bc8 23. Bb1 Bb7 24. Bc2 Bc8 25. Bb1 Bb7 26. Bc2 Bc8 27. Bb1 Bb7 28. Bc2 Bc8 29. Bb1 Bb7 30. Bc2 Bc8 31. Bb1 Bb7 32. Bc2 Bc8 33. Bb1 Bb7 34. Bc2 Bc8 35. Bb1 Bb7 36. Bc2 Bc8 37. Bb1 Bb7 38. Bc2 Bc8 39. Bb1 Bb7 40. Bc2 Bc8 41. Bb1 Bb7 42. Bc2 Bc8 43. Bb1 Bb7 44. Bc2 Bc8 45. Bb1 Bb7 46. Bc2 Bc8 47. Bb1 Bb7 48. Bc2 Bc8 49. Bb1 Bb7 50. Bc2 Bc8 51. Bb1 Bb7 52. Bc2 Bc8 53. Bb1 Bb7 54. Bc2 Bc8 55. Bb1 Bb7 56. Bc2 Bc8 57. Bb1 Bb7 58. Bc2 Bc8 59. Bb1 Bb7 60. Bc2 Bc8 61. Bb1 Bb7 62. Bc2 Bc8 63. Bb1 Bb7 64. Bc2 Bc8 65. Bb1 Bb7 66. Bc2 Bc8 67. Bb1 Bb7 68. Bc2 Bc8 69. Bb1 Bb7 70. Bc2 Bc8 71. Bb1 Bb7 72. Bc2 Bc8 73. Bb1 Bb7 74. Bc2 Bc8 75. Bb1 Bb7 76. Bc2 Bc8 77. Bb1 Bb7 78. Bc2 Bc8 79. Bb1 Bb7 80. Bc2 Bc8 81. Bb1 Bb7 82. Bc2 Bc8 83. Bb1 Bb7 84. Bc2 Bc8 85. Bb1 Bb7 86. Bc2 Bc8 87. Bb1 Bb7 88. Bc2 Bc8 89. Bb1 Bb7 90. Bc2 Bc8 91. Bb1 Bb7 92. Bc2 Bc8 93. Bb1 Bb7 94. Bc2 Bc8 95. Bb1 Bb7 96. Bc2 Bc8 97. Bb1 Bb7 98. Bc2 Bc8 99. Bb1 Bb7 100. Bc2 Bc8

Black's next move shows he has lost his nerve. Even though the board is in flames, Black could still make a draw with 24... Kxg7 25 Qh6+ Kf7 26 Qh5+ Kf6 27 Rg1 Rg8 28 Qh6+ Ke5 29 Qh2+ Kd4 30 Qe2+ Ke5 31 Qh2+ Kf6 32 Qh6+ White, two pieces down, cannot improve on perpetual check.

White regains all of his sacrificed material with interest and wraps up the technical phase efficiently. 27... Kf7 28 Rg5 Qb6 29 Qd4 Bc8 30 Qd6 Qd8 31 Rxb6 Rxb6 32 Rf2 Bf5 33 Rf5+ exd5 34 Rf5 Kf6 35 Rf5 Rxb6 36 Rf5+ Kf7 37 Rf5 Rxb6 38 Rf5+ Rf7+ 39 Kd2 Rb1 40 Rxb4 Rxb2 41 Kc1 Rb2 42 Rb4

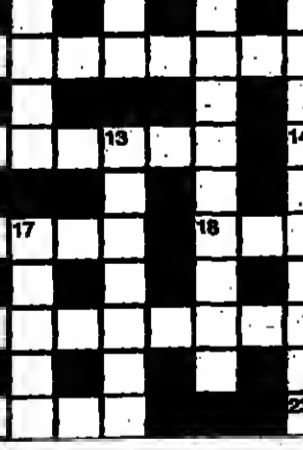
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene Last week's winners: I Bain, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire; N Balderson, Amersham, Bucks; R M Hill, Morpeth, Northumberland.

is position is from the game Ildivia - Cappello, Italy 1995. You spot Black's key move which brought his kingside initiative to a brilliant and successful conclusion? Black to move.

and your answers on a postcard The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Bc8



No 701

ACROSS 1 Plays for time; theatre seats (6) 2 Note (to file, colleague) (4) 3 Haul; a bore (4) 4 Obsession (4,4) 5 Flattery (4,4) 6 Shapeless little mass (4) 7 Inoluerant, precise (6) 8 Jug (of wine) (6) 9 Spin over; egg-nog (4) 10 Assess (8) 11 In which things are pithy (4) 12 Requisition note, young girl (4) 13 (Druidic) poet (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 700 ACROSS: 6 Gallies 7 Blend 9 Venue 10 Hit list 11 Coup de grace 14 Ultramarine 17 Arrears 19 Gavel 21 Ticks 22 Iron age DOWN: 1 Glen 2 Alleluia 3 Method 4 Abst 5 Delicate 6 Give 8 Dither 11 Cut-price 12 Goings-on 13 Au fait 15 Absent 16 Flue 18 Also 20 Veal

AKOM LIMITED IS NOW OFFERING READERS OF THE TIMES FREE DELIVERY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AT STANDARD RETAIL PRICE - OFFER APPLIES UK ONLY. TIMES WORLD ATLAS: 9th Comprehensive De Luxe Edition £85, 7th Concise Edition £45 and Family Edition £17.99. Reference Edition £12.99. Computer Edition £19.99. Mini (Pocket) Edition £5.99 ALSO The Times World History (Pb) £12.99. TIMES THEMATIC ATLAS: The Times Atlas of World History (Pb) £12.99. Concise Edition (Pb) £14.99. Compact Edition (Pb) £9.99. The Times Atlas of European History (Hb) £25. The Times Atlas of the Second World War (Hb) £20th Anniversary Edition £22.99. The Times Atlas of Archaeology (Hb) £35. The Times London History Atlas (Hb) £22.99. Send cheques with order payable to Alison Ltd 51 Manor Lane, London SE11 5JW. Delivery in 8 days. Tel: 081-852 625 (24hrs) No credit cards.

PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.



The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption (95), Weekend Games Page, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 14.



"When it comes to housework, my husband says I'm an absolute Trojan"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Maurice Taylor, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire

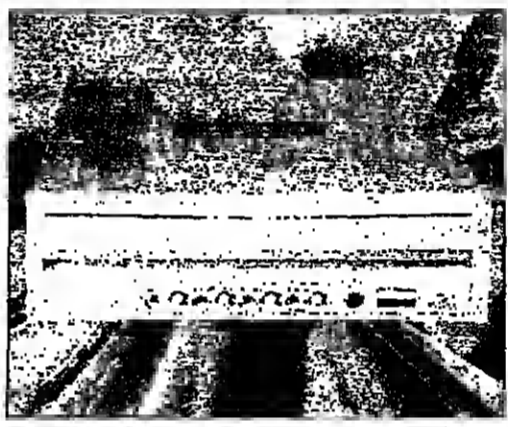
WORD-WATCHING

- By Philip Howard HAMEL a. A lost Semitic language b. An African croft c. A wether NANCY DAWSON a. An effeminate dance b. A sudden storm c. An insincere excuse MICROBUS a. A small bus b. A man like a microbe c. A flatterer KYU a. Dried mushroom b. Bad at Judo c. Green-blue

Answers on page 16

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



Cyberspace 21 prize: NEC's 4x4c CD-Rom drive

Emperor in 1804. "Their day began between 6am and 7am when Constant Wairy, the first valet de chambre, entered the Emperor's bedroom wearing a French-style, green broadcloth coat with cuffs and colour embroidered in gold, a white kersersme vest, black breeches and silk stockings. Napoleon changed the face of Europe with lightning speed, in his

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

TERENCE REESE, who died two weeks ago aged 82, was a great player and writer. He was in British teams that won four European championships, and in the only British team to win a world championship (in 1953). At that time many experts rated him the best player in the world.

He was also involved in the most widely publicised incident in the game has seen: it was front-page news worldwide. In the 1965 World Championship in Buenos Aires, he and Boris Schapiro were found guilty of cheating by the World Bridge Federation. The British Bridge League carried out its own inquiry and found them not guilty but Reese and Schapiro did not play together again. For 60 years Reese was one of the most prolific bridge writers, with more than 80 books to his name. He is certainly one of the three all-time best authors (and was voted so at the 1994 Pairs Olympiad, along with Victor Mollo and Hugh Kelsey), and I rate him the finest. His book on the Buenos Aires affair (Story of an Accusation) is riveting, full of lucid analysis of the hands and piercing insights into the personalities involved. As a doyen of the bridge writers, he had the status to write uncompromising book reviews, and some were famously cutting. A few examples: of a beginner's book which took a page to describe the play of AQx opposite Kx: "Well, that's something learned"; the dismissal of one of Victor Mollo's books in one sentence: "At least there are no animals in it"; and of a book called Twelve Lessons on Bridge, he said:

"The author should hasten to take them." But a favourable review was the lead quote in any publisher's advertisements.

All the obituaries of Reese mentioned his "acid wit". Undoubtedly he could be rude. While playing at Crookfords, the home of rubber bridge in London for many years, Terence partnered a newcomer who made an elementary mistake. While dealing the next hand the newcomer, by now rather nervous, turned over a card and had to redeal. Terence remarked to one of his opponents: "The so-and-so can't even deal properly." Except that he didn't say "so-and-so". He was fluent in French, and often used French phrases in daily conversation; in his wonderfully funny letters to Boris he always addressed Boris as "cher collegue". In return for board and lodging at a tournament in Deauville, he and I played in an exhibition event. Terence's only instructions to me were: "Il faut éviter le cuiller de bois." ("we must avoid the wooden spoon"). You might think from these stories that he was a disagreeable person. Not so. He had friends of all ages and from many countries. I first got to know him in the late 1960s, and those of my generation loved his company. Though he was 25 years older than us, he was still one of the boys. His sharp remarks were just part of the general good-humoured exchanges, and even the targets enjoyed them. Where does he stand in the game? For his overall contribution to the game, I place him second only to Ely Culbertson. I shall miss him.

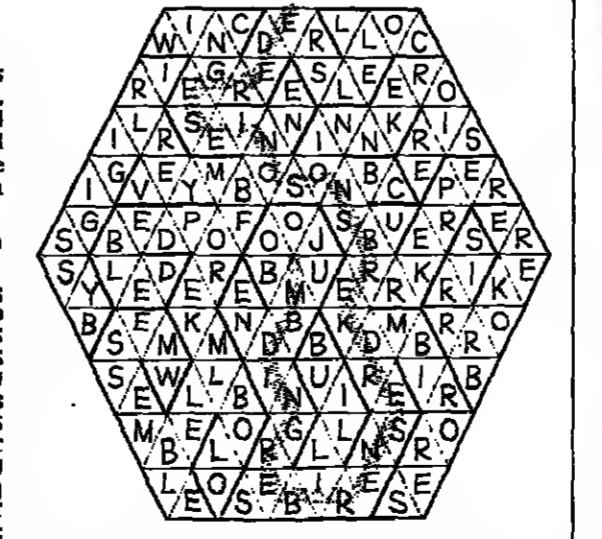
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3344: Good for Nothing by Dimitry

- AN appropriate quotation (in the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations 4th Edn) followed by its author appears in the first, fifth, eighth and twelfth columns. One answer is not given explicitly in Chambers (1993) but may be inferred. ACROSS 1 Priest having left the cloth (5) 5 Flat in which pets go out to exercise (6) 8 Storm about princess acting lit up (7) 9 Like the Scots Greys, extremely lucky with artillery (5) 10 Old party fighter (9) 12 Bldr suitable for great occasion - hot! (5) 13 Notice sun goes round always once every 24-hours (5) 14 Unter-den-Linden, perhaps is grand in style (7) 15 Scots busy catching fish in casting net (6) 16 Waste is rubbish (5) 17 What's in a name... put over with gravity (5) 19 Did judge include note in documentary evidence? (6) 20 Lot more quivery? (7) 21 Bother for local reporting some bad spirit (5) 23 Chinese can be thought surly in conversation (5)

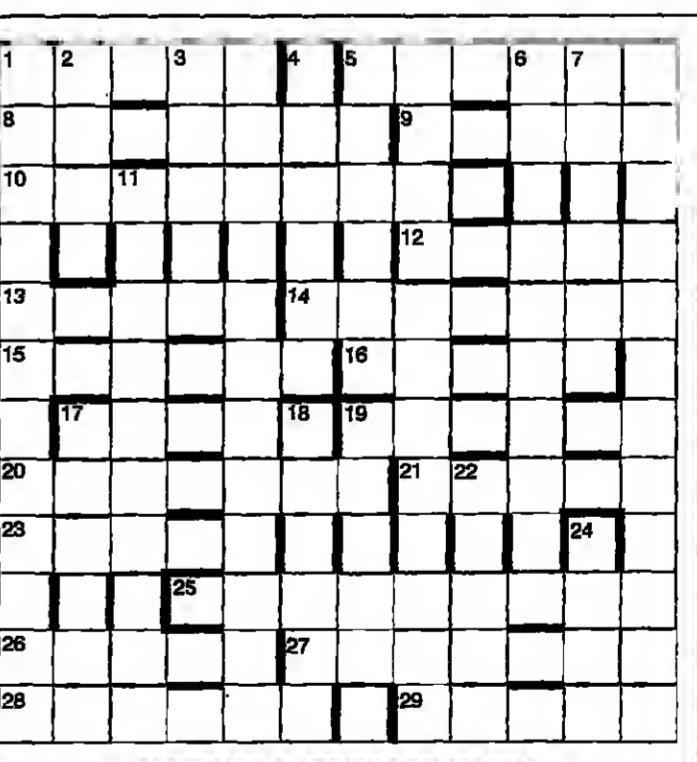
- 25 Edge - Is it reversed with this on top of check? (9) 26 I sift restricted articles (5) 27 Hamper bay, perhaps, inside part of harness (7) 28 Neighbours get work in market-towns (6) 29 African despot imprisoning government (5) DOWN 2 Start clapping... that's not approved for praise (4) 3 Dark distress for my heart (5) 4 Get trapped in emergency stairway (6) 5 Suspicion about shabby garment's condition: rank! (6) 6 Rampant lie will be punished here! (10) 7 It increases current homework when master's back before the end (6) 11 Man ordered to cobble? (10) 17 A knight raised to one of the nobility (6) 18 Pet fish kept by German (6) 19 Had rope with noose put up for hanging (6) 22 What characterises type of energy with few calories? (5) 24 Cut down bitter tree (4)

Solution to No 3344: The Hunting of the Snark by Lewis Carroll. The B answers are the names of the hunters, who all began with the letter B. The hunt is symbolised by a maze; in threading that the prudent solver will unwind behind him a clew (clue) leading from the entrance to the centre, where he will meet, not a common snark, but the dreaded BOOJUM.



Solutions are as follows (C and S clue answers in brackets): IT WHIRLIGIG; 1D WHITESEAM; 2D INGRAIN; 2S (CHIN) INCH; 3S (ACED) CADE; 4D DETENTIONS; 5D OCTROIS; 6C (CAROLLO) COLLARED; 7S (PIER) RITE; 8S (GREET) EGRET; 9S (EASEL) EARLE; 10D ROISTERER; 11S (ARES) RASE; 12C (MANCE) ANNIE; 12S (MINA) NAIN; 13U ANNALS; 14D REAP; 14U RAKEHELL; 15U VAGI; 16B BONNETS; 16S (BOONS) BDSON; 17B BANKER; 18S (PEACHER) CHEAPER; 19D GABLE; 20B BEAVER; 21C (BADGES) DEBAGS; 21D DADA; 22D PORTENDING; 22U PAYER; 23D OF; 24D JUTE; 25B BUTCHER; 25S (TUBE) BUTE; 26S (TERRAS) RASTER; 27C (SLAYED) DELAYS; 28C (TARED) TREADS; 28U TROPHY; 28B BOOTS; 29P BOOJUM; 30U RAKE; 31U KAIS; 32U ABYSS; 33D ASSEMBLE; 34B MAKER; 34U METRE; 35C (MAKES) KAMES; 35S (DAMN) MAND; 37D DIABOLO; 38S (ABBA) BABA; 38D BABU; 39B BAKER; 39D BUILT; 40U KEA; 41D DREST; 42B BARRISTER; 42D BIRG; 43C (ROAR) ORRA; 44S (WALLETS) SETWALL; 45D WALE; 46D BOAR; 47S (ANT) AINT; 48C (TERRIT) TRITER; 49B BROKER; 50B BELLMAN; 51S (GRAAL) ARGAL; 52C (ALLAN) NALLA; 53C (SORT) ORTS;

54C (THOLE) HOTEL; 55U SHOLA; 56B BILLIARD-MARKER; 57C (BIRSE) RUBES; 58U STENT; 59C (TENSE) ESTER. The winner is R.A. Sheppard, of Crowthorne, Berkshire. The runners up are Gordon Murray, of St Helens, Merseyside, and G. Snowdon-Davies, of Cardiff.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3344

In association with CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3344, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, February 22.

The winner will receive The Cambridge Encyclopedia, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 30,000 entries; The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and The Cambridge Guide to Literature, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive The Cambridge Guide to Literature.

Cambridge University Press, the oldest printing and publishing house in the world, issues some 1,570 new publications in over 160 countries each year, encompassing virtually every subject seriously studied in the English-speaking world.

THE TIMES ON MONDAY

FREE SPEECH, FREE PHONE CALLS

Start collecting our tokens for five hours of free BT phone calls



15 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT

Four-page guide to World Cup cricket, plus Alan Lee reporting from Calcutta

Rob Hughes on Birmingham City v Leeds United

Andrew Longmore on QPR v Liverpool



FROM YOU TO YOUR BABY

Part one of our guide to the science of modern maternity

EVERY DAY NEXT WEEK COLLECT A VOUCHER AND EAT OUT FOR £5

Howard set to reject Hindley transfer

By RICHARD FORD AND KATE ALDERSON

MICHAEL HOWARD is expected to reject a Parole Board recommendation that Myra Hindley be moved to an open prison and given the hope of eventual freedom.

Hindley, 54, yesterday refused to comment on the proposed move, disclosed in The Times, during a telephone conversation from Durham Prison with a member of her legal team.

But she accepts the practical and political difficulties involved in a move to a prison without perimeter fences.

Mr Howard, visiting Birmingham, said no decision had yet been made on the recommendation, which was made after a review of her case last month.

The Home Secretary is unlikely to risk the public outcry that moving Hindley to an open jail would cause. He is also likely to take into account the fears for her safety if she were sent to a prison where it would be easy for members of the public to gain access. One

prison source said: "Ironically, Hindley probably needs protection from the public rather than the other way round."

Mr Howard is under no obligation to accept the Parole Board recommendation, and can take into account wider considerations than whether Hindley represents a risk to the public. One is "maintaining public confidence in the criminal justice system".

The Parole Board suggestion provoked fury from the parents of children who were killed by Hindley and her lover, Ian Brady. They were jailed for life in 1966 for the murders of Lesley Ann Downey and Edward Evans. In 1987 Hindley confessed to her role in the killings of Pauline Reade and Keith Bennett.

It was this confession which caused Lord Waddington, when Home Secretary in 1990, to order her to remain in prison for the rest of her life.

Yesterday Ann West, the mother of Lesley Anne, said she was disgusted by the recommendation. "I was satisfied with her imprisonment in Durham but this new recommendation is devastating," she said.

"Hindley has tortured me for the last 31 years and she should stay behind bars under lock and key. She is an evil and calculating woman and I'm sure she will try and escape from an open prison."

Winnie Johnson, the mother of Keith Bennett, who went missing aged 12 in June 1964 and whose body was never found, said she believed Hindley would attempt to escape from an open prison. "She will do her best to escape and when she does I will follow her and torture her like she tortured the children she killed."

"Anyone who can believe she would not kill again if she got the chance must be an idiot."



Howard: taking wider factors into account



David Lane, clutching his father's helmet, with his mother at Blaina cemetery

Village pays tribute to firemen

By A STAFF REPORTER

FIREFIGHTERS and villagers lined the streets of Blaina, Gwent, yesterday to pay tribute to two firemen who died in a blazing house last week.

The coffins of Kevin Lane, 32, and Stephen Griffin, 42, were carried on two fire tenders decked with wreaths. Mr Lane's son David, 8, travelled in the front seat.

At the service Mr Griffin's daughter Tina, 17, sang the pop song *Eternal Flame*.

Later Andrew Griffin, 20, and David Lane were given their fathers' yellow helmets.

At Blaina cemetery the Welsh dragon flags that had covered the men's coffins were given to their widows, Margaret Griffin and Sian Lane. The two firemen were then laid to rest side by side.

The funeral procession passed within 200 yards of the charred council house where the part-time firemen died last week. They had rescued Daniel Harford, 5, and went back into a house after wrongly

being told another child was trapped. Daniel died later. The men are to be nominated for bravery awards.

The supermarket blaze in which the firefighter Fleur Lombard died on Sunday was started deliberately, police said yesterday. Detectives were questioning a 20-year-old security guard at the Leo's store at Staple Hill, Bristol.

About 500 members of Avon Fire Brigade are expected at the funeral of Miss Lombard, 21, in Derby Cathedral on Tuesday.

Minister backed on probation training

The High Court has backed the Home Secretary's move to scrap the need for trainee probation officers to have a social work qualification. The probation officers' trade union had claimed that Michael Howard had abused his powers by ending the requirement.

But two judges ruled that he had acted within his discretion when he decided that a social work diploma or similar qualification was no longer appropriate and instead recruits should train "on the job". Mr Howard will now push ahead with attempts to recruit more mature entrants, including retired members of the Forces, into the Probation Service.

Leave to appeal was refused, and the union was ordered to pay Mr Howard's costs.

Spending limit

A plan to cap public spending and eliminate the threat of emergency tax increases was put forward last night by a former Cabinet minister. John Patten, Education Secretary from 1992-94, said that by law the State should not be able to spend more than 40 per cent of national income. John Major has said he would like to get spending down to 35 per cent of gross domestic product.

Witness appeal

Police are appealing for witnesses after a 16-year-old boy was stabbed to death in a McDonald's restaurant. Daniel Westmacott, of Edmonton, north London, was attacked by a group of youths on Thursday after an altercation at the restaurant in Edmonton between him and three teenagers. Daniel was stabbed in the back with a seven-inch carving knife.

Fatal blunder

Rupert Joslin, 86, is considering legal action against Wycombe General Hospital, Buckinghamshire, after it admitted responsibility for the death of his wife, Violet, 85. Mr Joslin of Maflow, gave his wife twice the recommended dose of the drug warfarin on a hospital technician's instruction. A verdict of accidental death was recorded at an inquest yesterday.

Scott hits back

Sir Richard Scott today defends his arms-to-Iraq inquiry, denying that it was either unfair or aggressive. "I don't think there is any argument to support the unfairness charge," he says in an interview with The Times. He acknowledges that ministers were put under pressure in giving evidence in public but says that it was justified. Valerie Grove, page 6

Manchester misses its rain

By NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE crisis facing the nation's water supplies was underscored yesterday with news that Manchester, known as one of the rainiest cities in England, is now one of Europe's driest, ahead of Madrid and Athens.

Weathermen said the past ten months in the area had been the driest for 70 years. "In absolute terms, Majorca has been the driest," the Manchester weather centre said. "But as a proportion, Manchester has been the driest in Western Europe, with 30

per cent of its normal rainfall. Most parts of Europe have had 80 to 90 per cent of their normal rainfall."

The centre added that the winter had been unseasonably dry because cold easterlies had pushed the usual rain-bearing Atlantic weather fronts north and south of the British Isles. This was one of the reasons why Spain had had such bad weather.

The findings, which underline how the past year has seen Britain's weather patterns turn upside-down, making the North drier than the South, came as North West Water announced a £75 million programme to preserve supplies.

The anti-drought schemes include 34 projects to guarantee supplies to towns in east Lancashire and east and south of Manchester, where local reservoirs have emptied, and 26 projects to provide an extra 105 million litres of water a day by increased abstraction from boreholes and upgrading treatment works. Parts of Scotland, Wales and the North of England face the threat of flooding this weekend as rising temperatures begin a rapid thaw of ice and snow. The far north of Scotland will be battered by gales and driving sleet.

Forecast, page 24

Major says status of EMU test is unclear

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

JOHN MAJOR has admitted that the status of one of the key tests for a 1998 go-ahead for a single currency is unclear.

The Prime Minister's comment came in a letter to Peter Shore, the former Labour Cabinet minister, who has been pressing the Government to concede that the effective collapse of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism has wrecked the legal basis for economic and monetary union.

Last night Mr Shore said

the British and other European governments were in a "mess and a muddle" over a single currency. His exchanges with Mr Major and Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, showed that Britain can veto a move to a single currency. Any future government should not hesitate to use that weapon and halt the "damaging and misconceived" plan for EMU, he said.

Mr Major said in his letter this week that the "exact status" of the ERM test was unclear, given the upheavals since the Maastricht signing.

National Savings

today's offer

Choose from two unique tax-free alternatives to TESSAs

For a guaranteed, tax-free return choose "43rd Issue Fixed Interest Savings Certificates". We guarantee a return of 5.35% pa compound over 5 years (Equivalent to 6.68% pa gross for basic and lower rate taxpayers, assuming tax at 20%, and 8.91% pa gross for higher rate taxpayers).

For an inflation-protected, tax-free return choose "9th Index-linked Issue Savings Certificates". Your investment is protected against inflation and, in addition, you get extra interest of 2.5% pa compound over 5 years.

Both investments are completely free of income and capital gains tax, and what's more there's no need to declare them on your tax form. You can also invest up to the maximum levels in National Savings tax-free investments regardless of any other tax-free investments you might have (such as TESSAs and PEPs).

To buy either of these unique investments off the page, simply turn to 'Weekend Money' for an application form. There will be information on investments and seasonal opportunities from National Savings in this space every week. For a copy of the full terms & conditions of today's offer, or for a free copy of our Virtual Shop Guide, covering all National Savings' unique investment opportunities, you can call us free anytime on 0500 500 000.

Call free anytime on 0500 500 000

sales desk

You can invest from £100 to £10,000 in each Issue

Access when you want, without losing any tax-free benefits

No need to declare on your tax form

Can be held in addition to TESSAs and PEPs

Tax-free